Survey of Yukon's Horse Owners and Horse Boarding Operators

Yukon

Executive Council Office
Bureau of Statistics

Results from the Survey of Yukon's horse owners and horse boarding operators

June 2003

Prepared For:
The Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources's
Agriculture Branch

Prepared By: The Yukon Bureau of Statistics

2007-02976/

Table of Contents

Page

Introduction 9
Methodology 10
Highlights 11

Horses

1. Do you own one or more horses? 17
2. Do you board horses as a business? 18
3. For what purpose(s) do you use the horse or horses which you own? 19
4. Do you keep horse(s) off your property? 21
5. Do you winter your horse(s) outside of the Yukon? 23
   5.1 How many? 23
   5.2 Where? 24
   5.3 Could you tell us why? 24

E.I.A.

6. Are you aware of the disease Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.), also known as Swamp fever? 29
   6.1 How would you rate your knowledge of E.I.A.? 30
   6.1.1 Could you tell us what you know about E.I.A.? 31
7. Are you aware of the Coggins Test, that is the test for E.I.A.? 34
8. Have you ever tested your horse or any of your horses for E.I.A. using the Coggins Test? 35
   8.1 Was the test positive, that is the horse(s) had E.I.A.? 36
   8.1.1 What did you do about the positive test? 37
9. Are you concerned about E.I.A. in the Yukon? 38
   9.1 Can you tell us why? 39
10. All horses gathered in a central area to take part in an event such as a rodeo, horse show, fall fair etc. should have a current negative E.I.A. test result? 44
11. All horses transported in or out of the territory should have a current negative E.I.A. test? 45

12. In general, what do you think should be done about testing for E.I.A? 46
12.1 If you checked "mandatory testing", how often do you think testing should be done? 49
12.2 If a horse tests positively for E.I.A. which of the following options in your opinion would be the best choice? 53

Feed

13. Do you grow hay? 61
13.1 Do you grow enough hay each year to meet your needs? 62
14. Do you buy hay? 63
14.1 How do you prefer to buy hay? 64
15. Where do you usually buy hay? 66
15.1 If you purchased hay from outside the Yukon, why did you purchase it from there? 66
16. When purchasing hay what are you looking for? 67
17. Do you use any other feed? 70
17.1 Do you use? 71
18. Other than hay or pasture, do you raise your own feed? 72
18.1 How much per year? 72
19. Do you graze your horse(s)? 73
19.1 Where do you graze your horse(s)? 74
20. Additional comments about your horse(s), E.I.A. or hay/feed? 75

Introduction

The following results were compiled through a mail-out survey to all Yukon horse owners and boarders. The survey was sponsored by the Yukon Government's Agriculture Branch which contracted the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to conduct the survey. The information obtained through the survey on the number of horses in the Yukon and on equine infectious anemia (E.I.A.), also known as "Swamp Fever", will help the Agriculture Branch to investigate the next steps in developing policies and legislation related to the health and growth of the equine sector in the Yukon economy. The information gathered on forages will enable the Branch to determine market potential and needs.

There were 210 surveys completed. 87 of these were returned through the mail, the remainder were completed over the phone. All efforts have been made to ensure accuracy of the results. Small discrepencies in total responses for some questions may be apparent.This is due to the fact that not all questions were answered by all respondents.

Note: This survey was designed to record opinions of horse owners and horse boarders independant of the number of horses owned or boarded by an individual.

Methodology

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics mailed out 441 survey forms to horse owners and horse boarding operators. Potential clients or respondents were gathered from lists provided to the Bureau of Statistics by the Agriculture Branch. Space was provided on the survey form for respondents to provide names and contacts of others they knew who owned and/or boarded horses.

An incentive to complete the survey was provided in the form of a $100 gift certificate, for horse feed from a local feed supplier of choice, to be won by a participating respondent.

Attempts were made to contact respondents by phone if mailed surveys were not returned to the Bureau.

Of the 441 eligible horse owners and/or boarders the following results were received:

Completed Surveys	202
Partial Surveys	008
Not Eligible	120
Non-working Number	044
Completed on another form	029
Not available for duration of survey	017
Refusal	012
Duplicate horse owner	005
No contact	004
Total	441

Highlights

Horses

- The total number of horses in the Yukon is estimated to be 1,748.
- 15% (31) of respondents boarded horses as a business.
- The most frequently mentioned purpose or use to which owner's put their horses was "trail riding".
- 39% of respondents kept their horses off their property either year round or seasonally.
- 11% of horse owners reported wintering their horse(s) outside the Yukon, with B.C. the most frequently mentioned province to do so.

Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.)

- 98% of horse owners/boarders were aware of E.I.A.
- 72% of respondents are concerned about E.I.A. in the Yukon.
- Almost 7 out of 10 (69%) rated their knowledge of E.I.A. as either "excellent", "very good" or "good".
- 97% of horse owners/boarders are aware of the Coggins Test.
- Just over 3/4's (77%) have tested their horse(s) for E.I.A. using the Coggins Test. 16% had horses with a positive result.
- 77% of horse owners/boarders agree (either very strongly (50%) or strongly (27%) that horses gathered for an event should have a current negative E.I.A. test.
- 71% agree that horses transported in or out of territory should have a negative E.I.A. test.
- The most frequently chosen option (38%) for a horse which has tested positively for E.I.A. was "destroy the horse (not for consumption)".

Feed

- 1 out of 4 (25%) of horse owners/boarders grow hay.
- Of those who grow hay, just over half (53%) grow enough hay each year to meet their needs.
- 75% of horse owners/boarders buy hay. The most frequently mentioned "preferred way" to buy hay is small square bales.
- 52% of those that buy hay purchase just over 3/4's (77%) of their needs from a local farmer.
- The 3 most important reasons hay is purchased outside the Yukon are: quality, price and availability.
- The 3 most important criteria when purchasing hay are: mould free, dust free and protein.

This page intentionally left blank.

Question by question results

This page intentionally left blank.

Horses

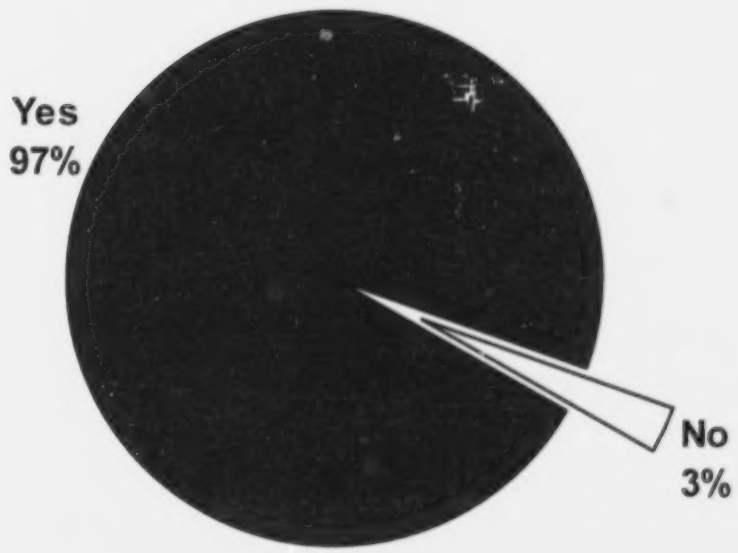
This page intentionally left blank.

1

Do you own one or more horses?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
Yes	204	97%
No	6	3%

204 respondents who answered "yes" owned a total of 1,748 horses.

Do you own one or more horses?

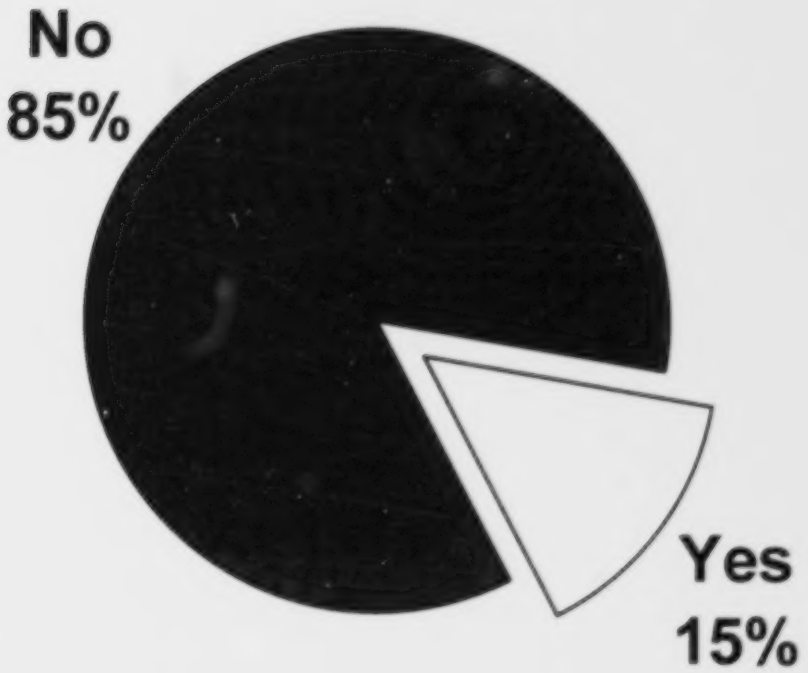


2

Do you board horses as a business?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
Yes	31	15%
No	179	85%

31 respondents who answered "yes" boarded a total of 151 horses.

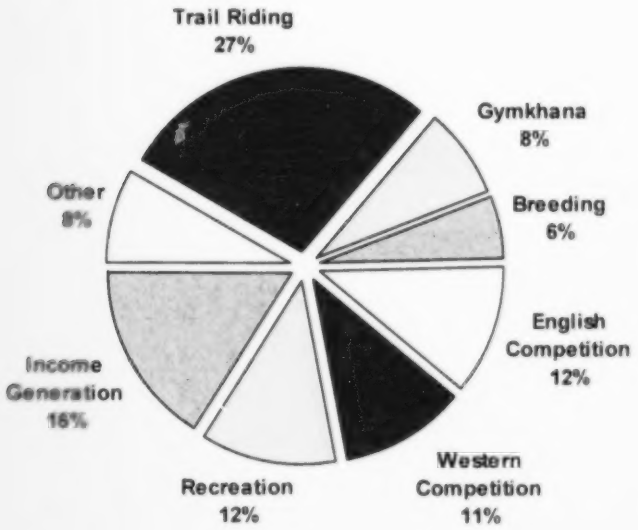
Do you board horses as a business?



3 For what purpose(s) do you use the horse or horses which you own?

(note: there were 286 selections)

Purpose	Number of Responses
Trail Riding	106
Gymkhana	29
Breeding	21
English Competition	44
Western Competition	40
Recreation	46
Income Generation	60
Other	32



Other

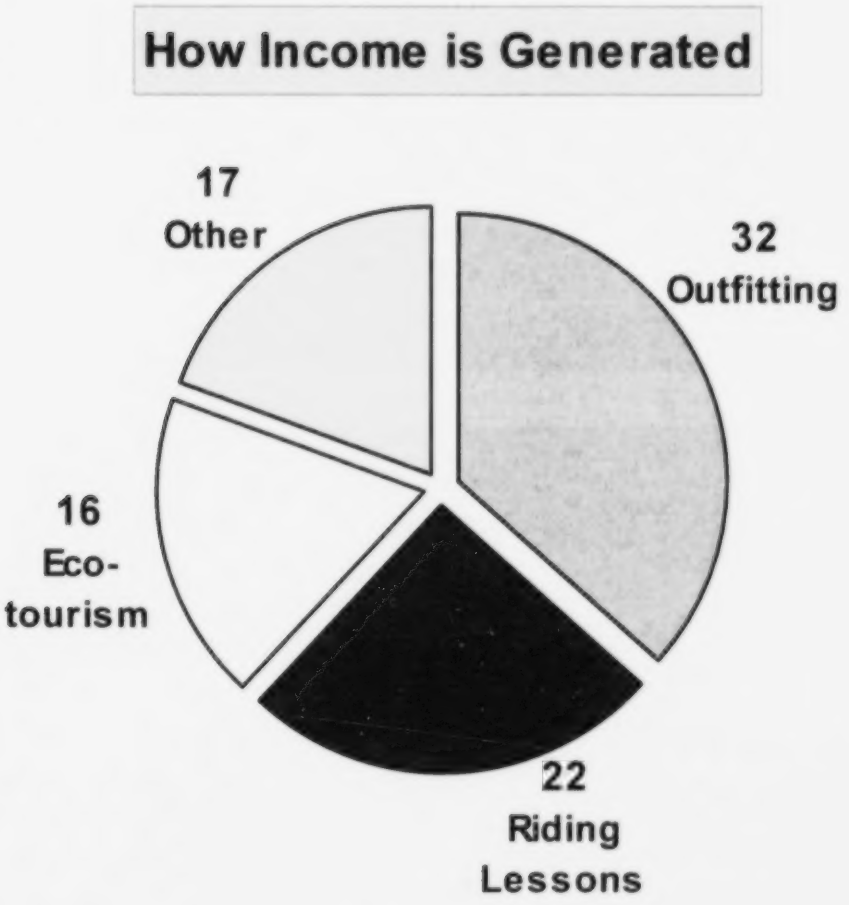
32 responses were recorded under **"Other"** purpose. These responses include hunting, driving, pets, education, farm/ranch work, logging, harness-work, hay rides, back country trips, 4-H and draft horses.

Income Generation

Of the 60 respondents that used their horses for **"Income Generation"** the following purposes were recorded.

3.1

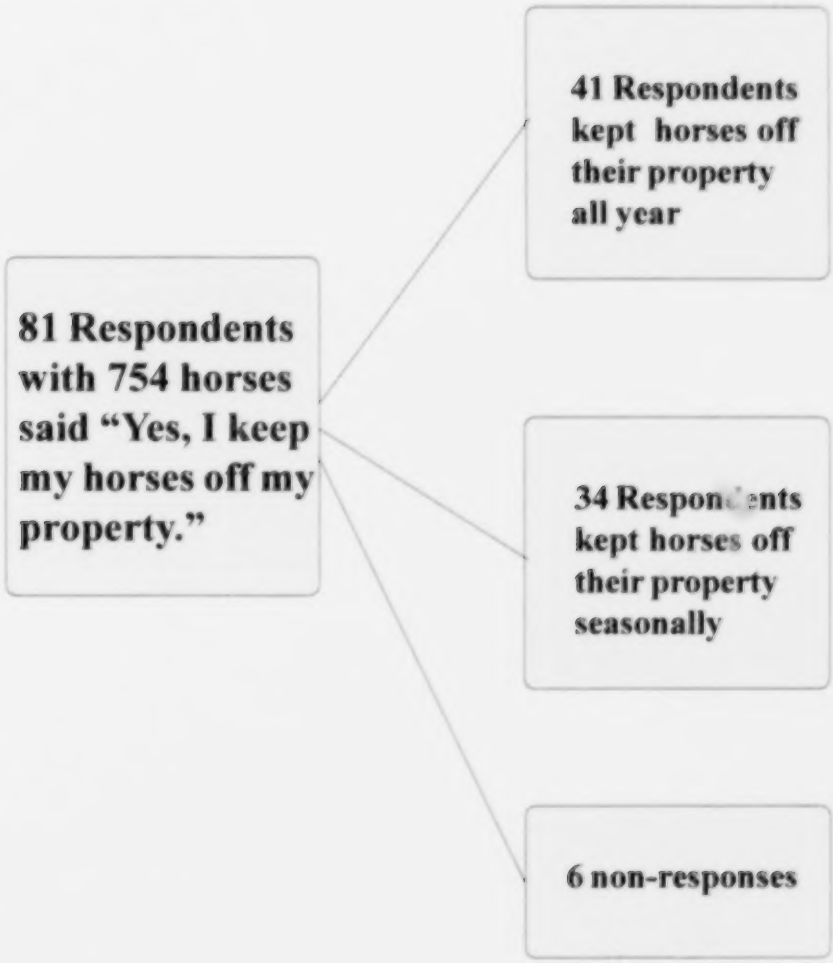
How do you Generate Income?	
Response	**Number**
Outfitting	32
Riding Lessons	22
Eco-tourism	16
Other	17



Other

17 responses were recorded in **"Other"** income generation. These responses include prospecting, breeding, selling, buying, leasing, training, logging/farming, horsemanship camps, horse facilities, dressage, games, mule production, hunting and tourism.

4 Do you keep your horse(s) off your property? If "Yes" is this all year or seasonally?


81 Respondents with 754 horses said "Yes, I keep my horses off my property."
41 Respondents kept horses off their property all year
34 Respondents kept horses off their property seasonally
6 non-responses

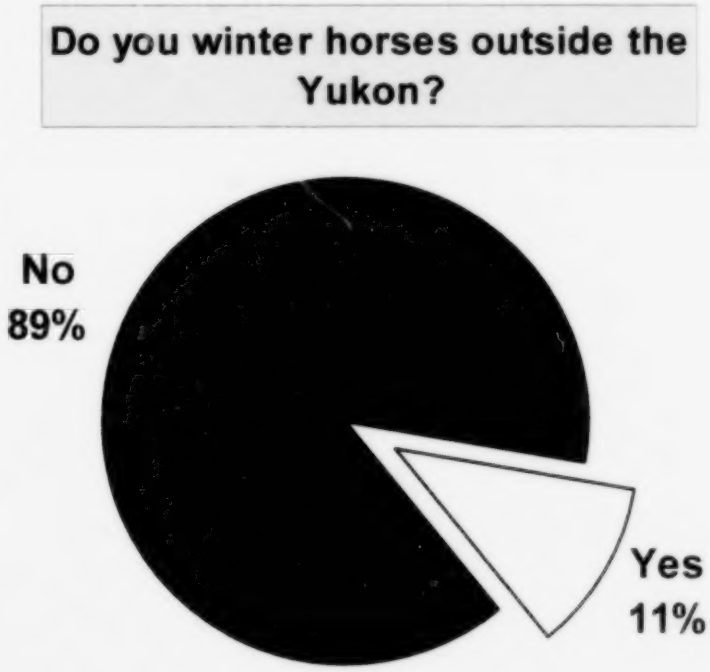
additional comments:

We reside in the city.
Boarded with others.
We don't have pasture property. Don't keep in contact with non-tested horses.
Sometimes I rent pasture for a month or two from the First Nations.
My horse is boarded at a farm outside city limits and I live at an apartment inside city limits.

It's hard to find E.I.A. tested places for less than $250/mon/horse and which are not a 200 acre field.
They graze on native land and free range.
Has been at Tagish but will move home in spring.
Will move to our home in spring.
Keep one in Tagish and four in Skagway as that's where I live.
I still feed and water my own in winter but keep them on another's property in winter.
Boarded out.
Only occassionally and not recently - and the intention is not to move to other pastures.
At a boarding stable.
I put up fences.
Kept off property only in winter months.
Board with others.
I board my horse as I live in town.
Boarded in Whitehorse area in winter: 6 foals; 10 minatures.
Sometimes they leave for a month or so.
I keep the horses on band property.
Temporarily for a year or so at someone else's house.
I have a grazing lease in Mendenhall.
Can't get grazing lease close to Tagish.
From May til July and October til December, I keep my horses off my property.
supplemented with oats and salt.
Occasionally we keep some in town all year long.
Students occassionaly lease a horse. Pre-purchase trials or lease.
Occassionally in the past the horses have gone down south for training.
Occasionally for clinics.
I board my horse on the Hotsprings Road.
They are only off the property in the summer when they're working in the mountains.
Occasionally rent winter pasture if available.
development down south.
They usually spend 1 to 2 months per year at Heart Bar Ranch.
Horses are shared with husband who has a separate property.
We have had agriculture applications since 1996 so our horses could stay in the Yukon on our pasture.
Safe fencing, daily inspection, water available, range for movement, wind protection
Boarded with others.
There is the question of updated E.I.A.
I sometimes board at a facility to take advantage of facilities and clinics (riding arena).
Horses are in my outfitting concession frm July to September. On a farm in Mayo from October to June.
Boards with others.
15 of my horses go to Yukon to my hunting area on Haines highway.
Keep them in Whitehorse for winters.
If I keep horses off my property then my pasture will stay in better shape.
Lives in British Columbia - he is an outfitter.
N/A - only transports horses through Yukon to NWT.

5

Do you winter your horse(s) outside of the Yukon?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
Yes	24	11%
No	186	89%



5.1 How Many?

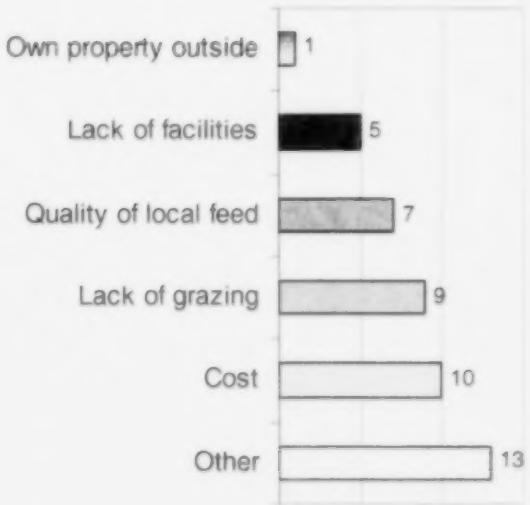
Of those that responded "Yes" to question 6, there were a total of 341 horses wintered outside the Yukon.

5.2 Where?

The most common place where horses were wintered is Fort St. John, British Columbia. 15 or 65% of the respondents wintered horses in B.C. including: Fort St. John, Atlin, Dawson Creek, Smithers, Pink Mountain and Hudson Hope. The remaining 8 or 35% wintered their horses in various Alberta locations including Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Edmonton, Olds, Peace River and Pincher Creek.

5.3 Could you tell us "why" you winter the horse(s) outside the Yukon? (note: more than one response could have been selected)

Why horses are wintered outside the Yukon	
Response	**Number**
Other	13
Cost	10
Lack of grazing	9
Quality of local feed	7
Lack of facilities	5
Own property outside	1



Other: Of the 13 "**Other**" responses, the most common reason people wintered their horse(s) outside the Yukon was because the owners resided outside the Yukon. Other reasons mentioned included climate and expense.

This page intentionally left blank.

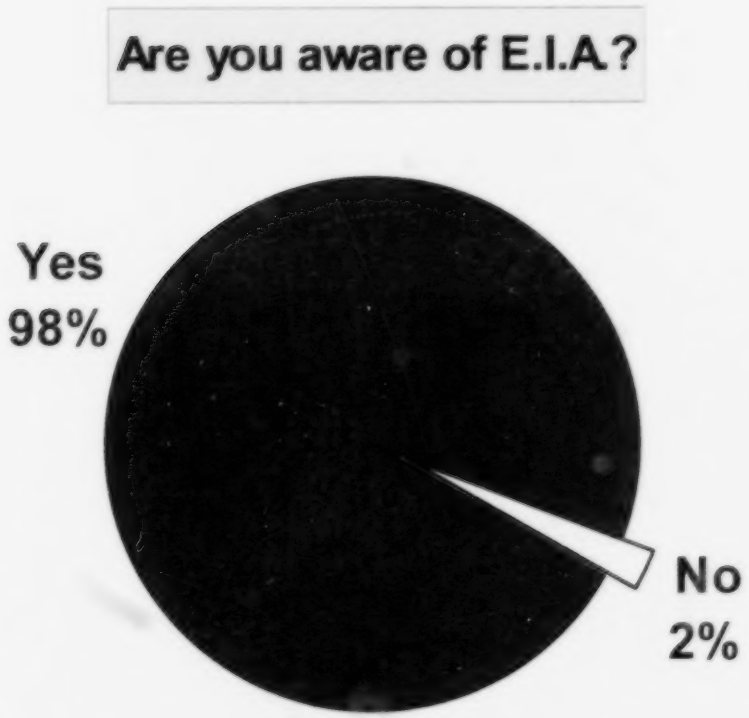
This page intentionally left blank.

Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.)

This page intentionally left blank.

6

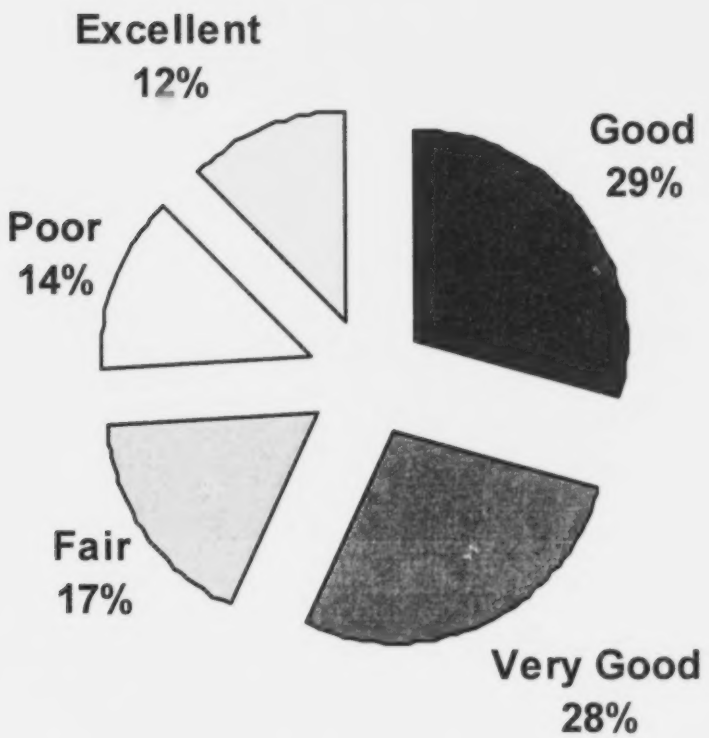
Areyou aware of E.I.A.?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
Yes	205	98
No	5	2



6.1

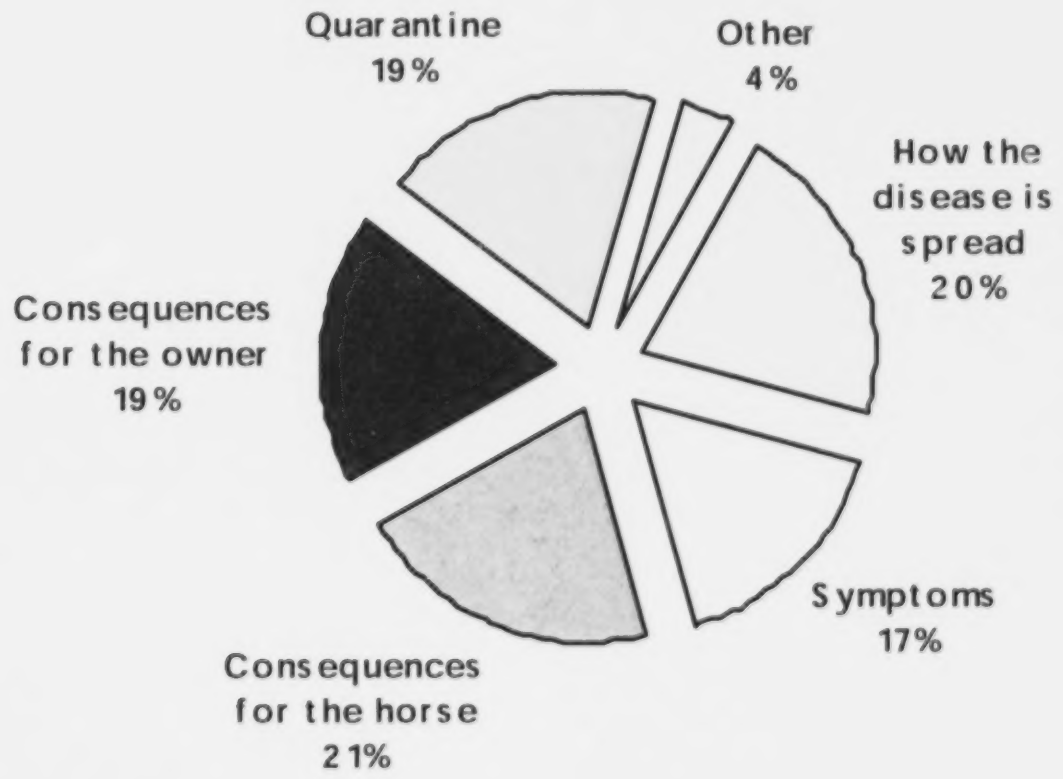
How would you rate your knowledge of E.I.A?		
Response	Number	%
Good	60	29%
Very Good	57	28%
Fair	35	17%
Poor	28	14%
Excellent	25	12%

Knowledge of E.I.A.



6.1.1 Could you please tell us what you know about E.I.A.? (note: respondents were asked to mark all that apply)

Specific Knowledge Of:	Number
How the disease is spread	176
Symptoms	139
Consequences for the horse	173
Consequences for the owner	155
Quarantine	163
Other	31



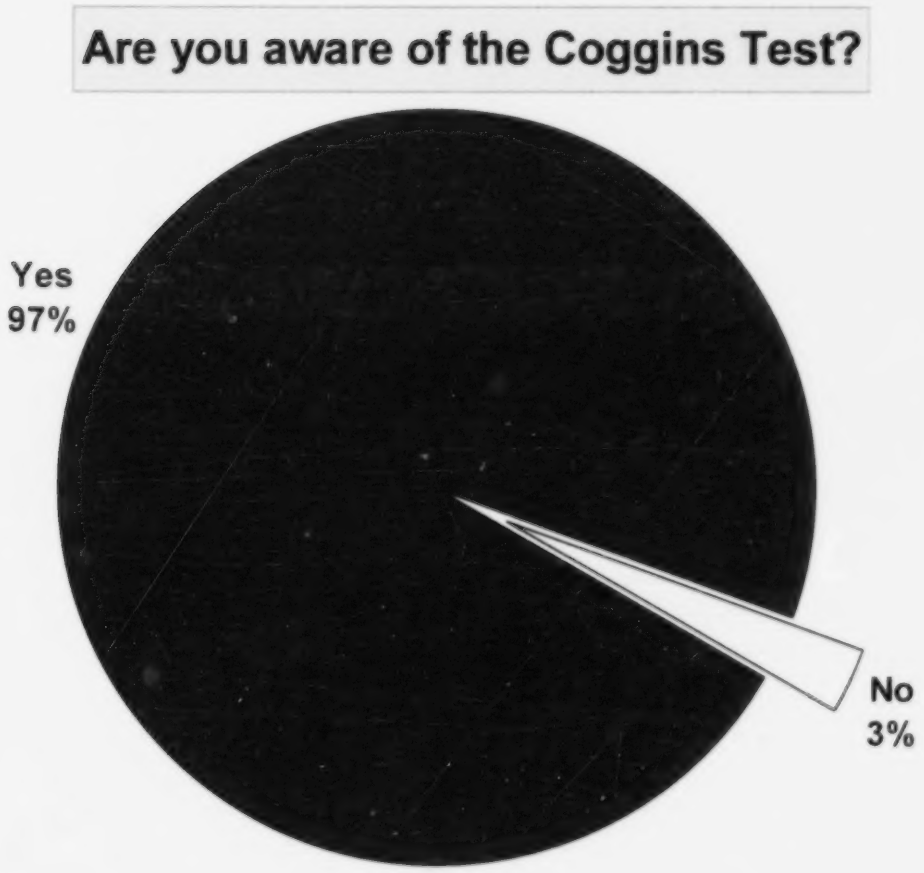
Other Comments

- There presently is no vacination available to prevent it and some horses seem to have natural immunity.
- I believe there is still a lot of unanswered questions about it!
- I know these consequences are not applied equitably in the Yukon.
- Lots of people dispute the degree to which it is a problem.
- I also know there are a lot of "unknowns" about the disease and am not satisfied we know enough to be making life and death decisions on.
- Confidentiality makes a mockery where a reportable disease is concerned. If a horse or premise has the disease, others need to know to practice safe management.
- How the policy of testing and euthanizing started. 60% of Chincoteague wild horses test positive and they are not dying of E.I.A.
- I consult with my veterinarian and the vet. Techs on a regular basis. There are still many unanswered questions about E.I.A.
- Some horses test positive but show no sign of the E.I.A. So, are they really carriers or are they immune to the E.I.A.
- Some knowledge of the issue in the Prairie Provinces.
- Resistance in community to test.
- Immunization; avoiding untested horses.
- Have had E.I.A. positive.
- Have had first hand experience with positive Coggins test and quarantine of our farm.
- In "Stable Management of Canada" it states the symptoms and it's mandatory to destroy the horse when the Coggins Test is positive.
- Federal regulations regarding slaughter of positive animals.
- Cost/business implications.
- I know it is very controversial and I believe silly to fight this disease.
- Risk of disease spread from mare to foal. (i.e., positive mare transfer to unborn foal.)
- There is a lot of mis-information and the knowledge of the disease is not comprehensive.
- Some animals are carriers and don't get sick.
- When a horse is sick, it's easy to tell.
- Contact veterinarian
- Federal veterinarian
- Deadly disease.

- Testing annually.
- Other: That without 100% compliance (from horse owners) Canada-wide to test - to test just horses coming into the Yukon would be a total waste of time and horse flesh. Would there be manpower available to make sure horses coming into the Yukon have all been tested and in fact the Coggins papers are actually for the horses in question? Not likely.
- Federal veterinarian can test at no cost and government will compensate when horse is put down.
- Mine was the first property in Yukon to require current negative Coggins Test for horses to enter the property.
- The Coggins Test just tests for the presence of anti-bodies, not the disease itself.
- The test for E.I.A. is not totally dependable. A positive horse is not always contagious.

7

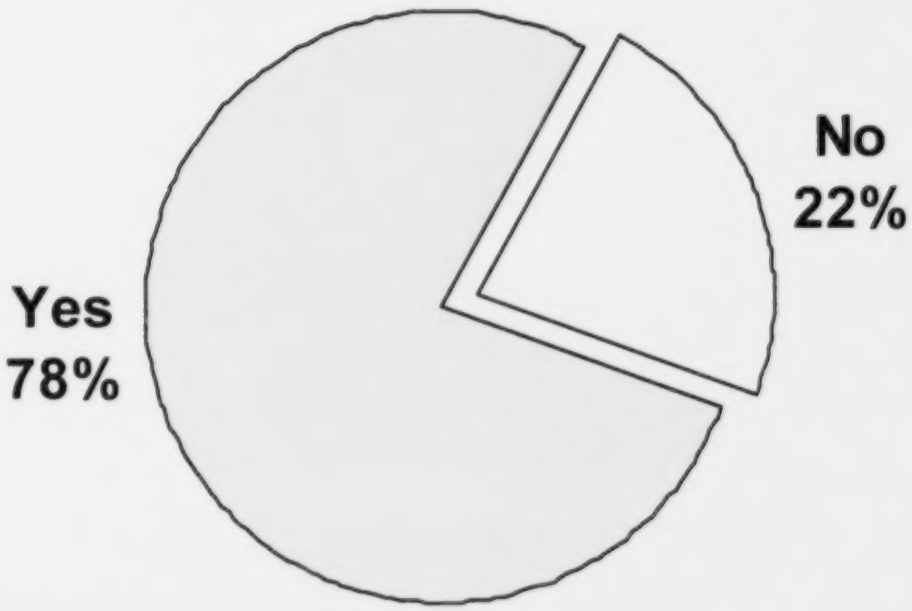
Are you aware aware of the Coggins Test?	Number	%
Yes	204	97%
No	6	3%



8

Have you ever tested your horse or any of your horses for E.I.A. using the Coggins Test?		
Response	**Number of respondents**	**% of respondents**
Yes	163	78%
No	47	22%

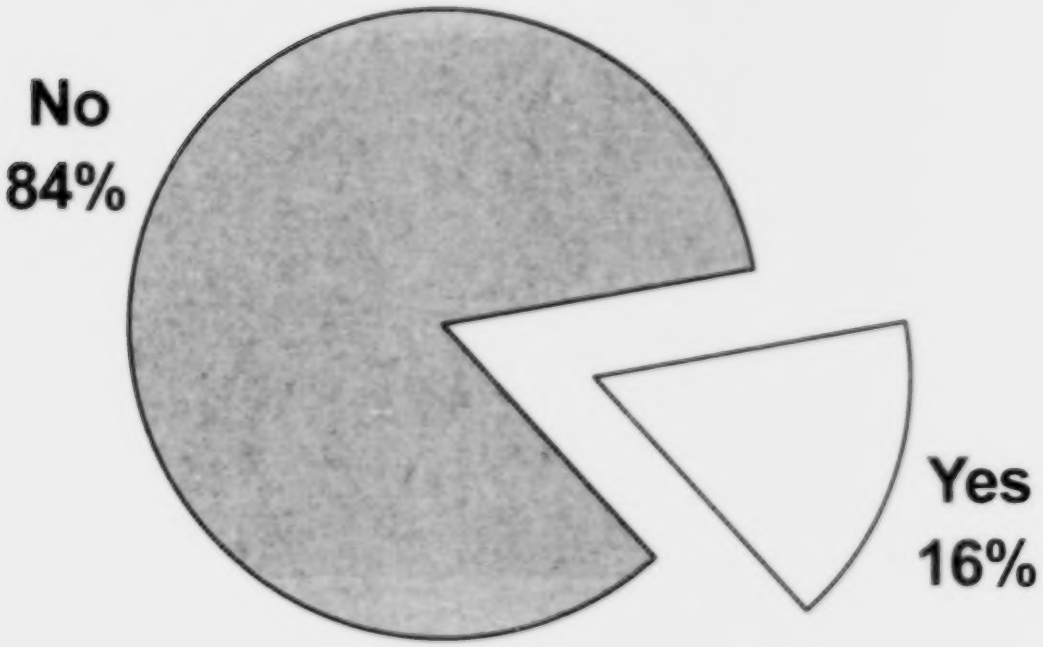
Have you ever tested your horse or any of your horses for E.I.A. using the Coggins Test?



8.1

Was the test positive, that is, the horse(s) had E.I.A?		
Response	Number	%
Yes	26	16%
No	135	84%

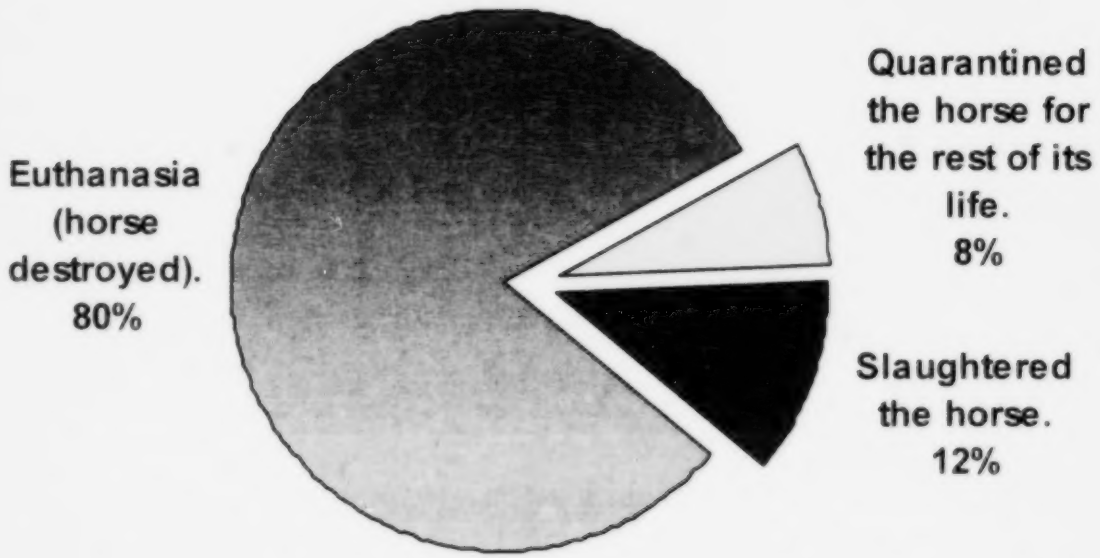
Was the test positive, that is, the horse(s) had E.I.A.?



8.1.1

What did you do about the positive test?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
Euthanasia (horse destroyed).	21	80%
Quarantined the horse during the biting fly season.	0	0%
Quarantined the horse for the rest of its life.	2	8%
Slaughtered the horse.	3	12%
Other.	0	0%

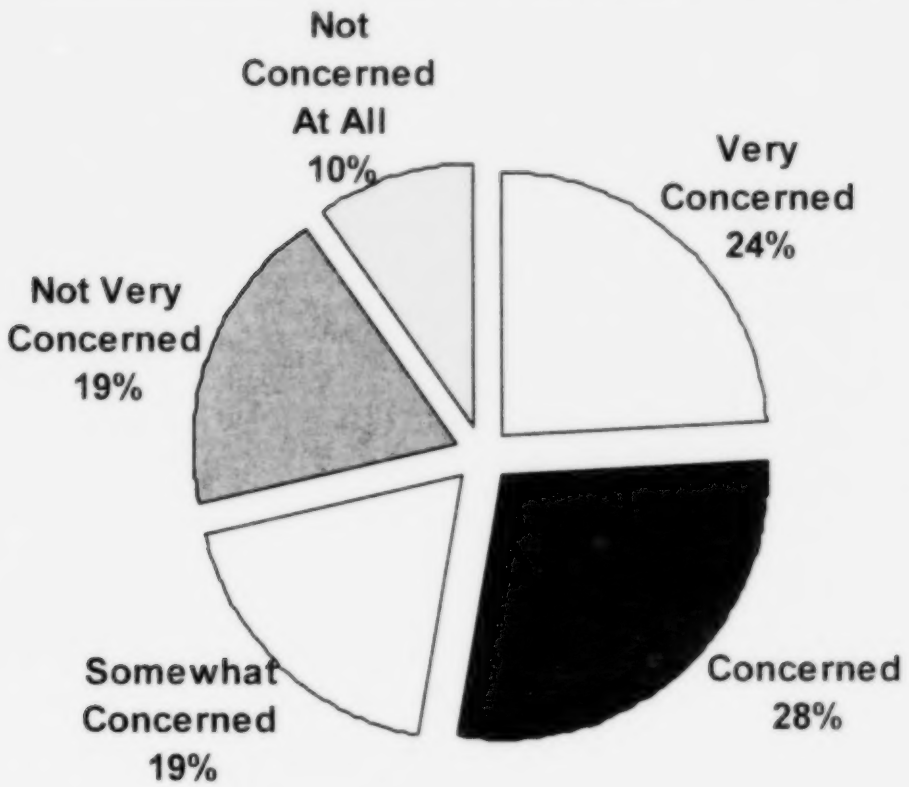
What did you do about the positive test?



9

Are you concerned about E.I.A. in the Yukon?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
Concerned	59	28%
Very Concerned	50	24%
Somewhat Concerned	39	19%
Not Very Concerned	39	19%
Not Concerned At All	20	10%

Are you concerned about E.I.A. in the Yukon?



9.1 Can you tell us why? (note: asked of those who responded very concerned, concerned or somewhat concerned to Q9)

Responses were very similar across the ranges of "very concerned", "concerned" and "somewhat concerned".

- Many believe that E.I.A. is a preventable disease but that there are no official policies or practices in existence to prevent the spread of the disease.
- While some realize there should be mandatory testing, others realize that this would be difficult due to cost and the fact there are some wild horses.
- Others believe that the Yukon, because of its small population, should be able to control or eliminate E.I.A..
- Many respondents are concerned for their business reputation as they may operate a boarding or breeding establishment.
- There is concern due to the significant investment, both financially and emotionally, that owners have with their horses.
- Overall, many comments expressed a concern over contact with and containment of the disease.

NOTE: Please see the following pages for a complete listing of "somewhat concerned", "concerned" and "very concerned" comments.

Somewhat Concerned

- Not everyone tests, so if by chance your horse came into contact with a positive horse unknowingly, it would be bad.
- mosquitoes
- mosquitoes
- No
- I'm not aware of any horses in the Yukon that have contracted E.I.A.
- It would be nice to control it but would not be possible without testing every horse in the Yukon, including native horses and wild horses.
- I would hate to see my horses get it.
- Concerned about any illness that might afflict my horse. Want to be vigilant.
- Some horses have had E.I.A. and new horses are always coming to the Yukon.
- d/k
- Though my animals have little or no contact with others, the spread of the disease should be a concern to all.
- It is making ignorant people paranoid to test, and paranoid of their neighbours.
- I would be very upset if I tested my horse, but those horse owners around me didn't test theirs and my horse died (later) from E.I.A. and it turned out those untested horses were positive.
- Our horses are isolated from other horses mostly. When we buy outside horses we have them tested and keep them at another ranch until we do.
- Concerned that all horses are not checked.
- I'm concerned because I have random association with other horses and don't want the disease.
- Don't know.
- I know there are a number of positive horses and that although the risk is relatively low, there has been cases I know of in which the disease is transferred to healthy members of the herd.
- I wouldn't want to put one of my horses down.
- Because I don't believe there are any reported cases in Whitehorse.
- Because if they get E.I.A. it's fatal in that you have to put the animal down.
- Because not everybody tests for it, so could spread fairly easily from one horse to another.
- Well, I think there are consequences to the horse/mule because it spreads.
- If E.I.A. is on your property it contaminates your property.
- Because I don't want my horses to have E.I.A.
- No answer
- No answer
- Because not everyone is testing.
- When your horses are not in contact with others there is less chance of picking something up.
- There is a large number of horses coming in and out annual from infected areas.
- I don't think it's a good thing to have to put a horse down.
- I have noted that a horse can test positive, but there are no outward signs the horse is ill or will ever become ill. I'm not sure we know enough about the disease. Killing horses who test positive is like killing people who test positive for the AIDS virus.
- I am concerned about the bureaucratic control of E.I.A. might bring to the Yukon.
- Because you are always worrying about the health aspect.
- If there was an outbreak you could lose lots of animals.
- Don't like sick animals. Who would?
- To protect my own horse.

Concerned

- I had all 31 horses tested and had 4 destroyed. It was expensive and I do not want my horses re-infected by lack of care on the part of other horse owners.
- I cannot replace my horse.
- It appears to be throughout Yukon and not everyone tests; it is expensive for us who live in communities outside Whitehorse to get tested; and I need to have a negative test to go anywhere with other horse owners.
- Concerns for possible wildlife being infected. Feel with small population in Yukon we can be E.I.A.-free with very little cost if we start now.
- I would just hate one of my horses to be tested positive because of going to competitions.
- Because of international travel, value of of livestock, etc.
- Don't want horse at risk to acquire E.I.A.
- I would not want my horse at risk of getting E.I.A.
- 1.) Because it is a disease 2.) Because I never know when I'm in the company of horses who have it.3.) It's expensive and difficult to certify that my horses are negative. Imagine if you had a large herd!!
- Because it poses a serious health risk to my horse and any other healthy horses in the Yukon.
- It is a potentially deadly disease, but my biggest concern is that we are going to make "partial policies" that will not serve horse owners in the long run.
- Outfitters and many other people do not get their horses tested because of prices.
- I would not want a disease like this to spread!
- Because there is no disclosure of information, I am restricted in my activities. Tested animals are often in close proximity to untested animals and there is no level playing field.
- Because it exists in the horse population, yet no official policy or practices are in existence.
- Don't want my horses to get it.
- This is a relatively easily controlled disease, if all are trying.
- I used to be very concerned but this virus pales in the face of West Nile Virus. I still don't want my horses exposed to untested horses and it would be wonderful if every horse in Yukon were tested.
- Because present AG Canada rules have the horse quarantined forever or put down.
- I don't want them to be with horses who aren't tested.
- You don't want your animal exposed to it. The consequences can be pretty drastic.
- I don't believe any horse should be allowed into the Yukon without being tested.
- It can spread and wipe out your herd.
- It's a reportable disease.
- If some people don't test their horses and then they come in contact with each other at events, they could spread it and that costs others. We have been taking our horse to events and some people don't test for E.I.A. and the disease could spread.
- We belong to the 4H Club and my daughter takes the horses to the riding show once per year.
- A lot of the horses travel in and out of the territory and that increases the risk of exposure.
- It might spread.
- I think there is potential to lose my investment. But some are carriers and not sick. I also think there is a lot we don't know.
- Because it is so highly contagious and anyone bringing horses into the territory should have them tested.
- Because we need to stop the spread of E.I.A. in the Yukon.
- Concerned about people's perception of E.I.A.
- Financial and emotional. Loss of valued livestock.
- It affects all horse owners that wish to take their horses anywhere off their property.
- The things we do with our horses requires Coggins Test. We prefer to be around other tested horses.
- I'm concerned because when they're in contact with other horses, they are at risk.
- It can have some devastating effects on the people as well as the horse.
- I'm concerned because when horses gather together for horse shows a negative Coggins Test is needed. I'm concerned about horses travelling in and out of the Yukon.
- I know of someone who had to put down half of his herd. I'd like this to be an E.I.A.-free zone.

- I don' think a lot of horse owners in the Yukon test for E.I.A.
- Horses suffer and their owners suffer. It can be prevented if horses are tested and quarantined.
- We had a positive horse that had to be destroyed.
- Yukon is small enough with limited access - able to control infectious diseases. I don't want my horses to get infected.
- I think we need to protect our horses from the spread of E.I.A. from other horses.
- I ride with someone who had a positive horse and that bothers me in regards to my horses.
- I would like to see testing done for horses that mix or come in contact with other horses, i.e., competitions, trail rides, boarding, etc.
- An infectious disease!! Everyone's horses need to be tested to prevent spreading.
- Because there must be a negative test to compete, and it's so easy to pick it up from other horses.
- It's contagious and transmitting. Also, a question of investment in assets in terms of replacements and others.
- Horses become a part of our family. It is very difficult if you have a positive. Horses are very expensive these days and we need to protect them.
- Always concerned with this disease.
- Because it's so infectious and spread by biting insects.
- Because of the effect it has on horses.

Very Concerned

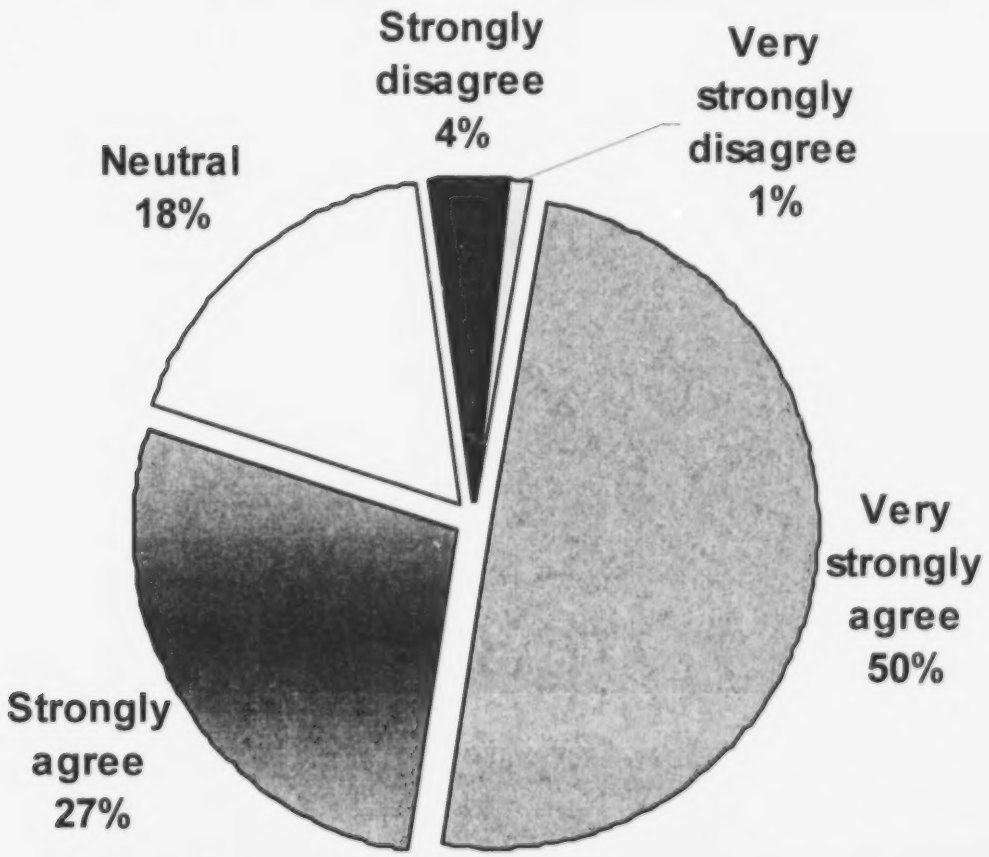
- Being that I run a boarding stable, I insist that all horses coming and going off our property are tested for E.I.A. We run a clean stable.
- So we can prevent the spread of E.I.A. and keep the Yukon clean for our horses.
- I board my horse and want to ensure the horses he boards with are not infected.
- With such a small horse population the government has the ability to eradicate the disease in the Yukon and is doing nothing.
- We have a significant investment in the horses we own.
- Because it is a disease that currently has no cure or preventative vaccination. We are currently in a position where it could easily be controlled.
- My horse is a very expensive investment and I do not want to expose her to positive horses.
- Lots of risk of spreading the disease because of large numbers of insects, vectors.
- I am concerned that my horses could come in contact with the disease.
- The proximity of people who don't want to test their horses and people who do test in the mosquito season. If people don't want to test they should keep their horses well out of mosquito flying range of horses who are tested during the mosquito season.
- It has affected several people's horses that we know and can be spread from one house to the other by biting insects. It is a risk. We have two horses that are very expensive (more than $20,000.00 to replace them that we would not have.)
- Horses and raising horses (feed, vets, farrier) are all expensive.
- Not all horse owners in Yukon take it seriously, especially some of the outfitters in the Whitehorse area, and don't get tested. At some point all these horses are at the same event or boarding facility.
- I keep my four horses separate from other horses to help protect them from E.I.A. and also, I love my horses.
- To my knowledge, it is possible to completely eradicate E.I.A. in the Yukon Territory. This disease is preventable.

- I feel that without some control there is no hope of lessening the risk to clean horses. Horses from outside should all have to prove negative.
- We have a very good environment for the spread of E.I.A.
- Potential of infecting other horses. Disease is nasty if horses exhibit clinical signs. Entirely preventable disease if all horse owners are responsible. Why risk your horses if you can 100% prevent it?
- It's a death sentence for the infected.
- E.I.A. poses a threat to our successful equine breeding and boarding business, built up over many years.
- E.I.A. has the potential to destroy our equine breeding and boarding business.
- It puts every horse at risk of contracting E.I.A.
- Because we have known cases.
- Because of all the horses boarded outside coming up here are not tested.
- If I had to put all my "kids" down I'd be very concerned.
- I have no E.I.A. now but I have my horses with outfitters' horses sometimes and they are not tested.
- d/k
- Testing is voluntary, therefore, inflicted horses may come in contact with non-infected horses.
- E.I.A. is contagious; while Dawson area owners all test for E.I.A., would not want to expose our horse to it.
- I'm aware that horses with E.I.A. have ability to spread disease.
- It is clean where we live but when we meet other horses that test positive, mine could get infected and ruin my breeding herd.
- I keep my horse away from others but if someone comes on my property with a horse, I insist on a Coggins Test.
- I have two registered horses. I don't want to lose them and there is no vaccine to protect them.
- There have been horses which were infected and we need to protect our own horses.
- Horses are wonderful animals - we need to protect our own Yukon horses.
- I think testing should be compulsory in order to clean it up.
- You have to be careful where and with whom you ride. The disease needs to be controlled.
- Because I show and must test each year and it's not law for everyone to test, so I run the risk of my horses getting E.I.A. and having to put them down.
- It is a disease that can be eradicated if all horses were tested and euthanized if positive. I don't want to have positive horses exposed to my tested horses and potentially contract the disease.
- Would not like to see any animal around with it.
- I lost 10 horses to E.I.A. It was devastating as they are my buddies as well as being useful. I don't want to lose any more.
- It can affect everyone so that you can't even ride with other people.
- I'd like to see healthy horses and concerned about other horses infecting mine.
- Nobody is qualified to do testing in the Yukon.
- I know my horses are clear, but if I am in contact with other horses, they can catch E.I.A.
- There are not many horses in Yukon and most are used for business. A disease like this affects all horses.
- My son had a lovely gaited Morgan mare that tested positive and we put her down. He has now re-invested in an Appendix QH with bloodlines. Why we are concerned. 1. It is not a pleasant experience to go through and do not want to have to repeat it. 2. Pro
- I encourage people to bring horses here for boarding/breeding. Also, I sell many horses over the U.S. border. Need to offer negative states herd.
- There are so many not tested horses in Yukon in contact with the tested horses, it is easy to infect clean ones.

10

All horses gathered in a central area should have a current negative E.I.A. test result?		
Response	Number	%
Very strongly agree	100	50%
Strongly agree	55	27%
Neutral	36	18%
Strongly disagree	8	4%
Very strongly disagree	2	1%

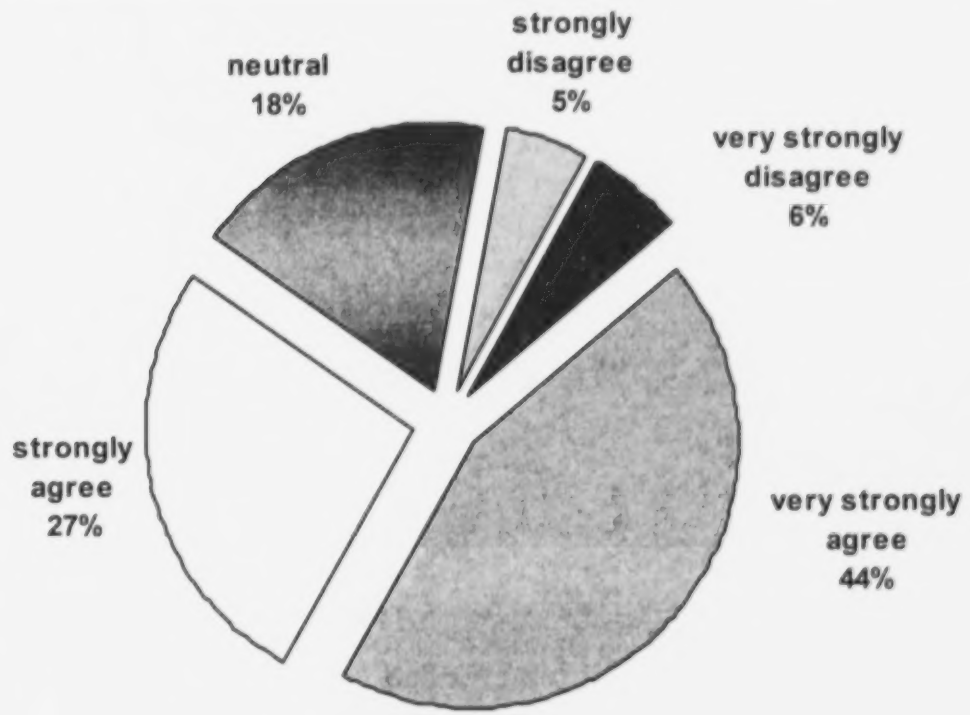
All horses gathered in a central area should have a current negative E.I.A. test?



11

All horses transported in or out of the Territory should have a current negative E.I.A. test result?		
Response	Number	%
very strongly agree	89	44%
strongly agree	54	27%
neutral	37	18%
strongly disagree	10	5%
very strongly disagree	12	6%

All horses transported in or out of the Territory should have a current negative E.I.A test result?



12

In General what do you think should be done about testing for E.I.A. ?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
mandatory testing of all new horses coming into the Territory	131	22%
any horse sold must have a current negative Coggins test	120	20%
mandatory testing of all breeding horses	99	17%
mandatory testing of all stallions	78	13%
mandatory testing of all existing Yukon horses	78	13%
other	64	11%
no testing	24	4%

64 comments were recorded under the "other" category for question 12. The following are representative of these comments.

- Horses should be tested based on their proximity to other horses. If herds are isolated they should be exempt from testing. Mandatory testing should be imposed if the herd is near other horses.

- Testing should be optional and up to each horse owner.

- Horses that winter outside the Territory should be tested. Testing should be mandatory for inter-provincial travel. All horses from outside of the Yukon should be tested, even if in transit.

- The cost of testing should be lowered or testing should be free. Right now it is impossibly expensive. Cost should be considered.

- Horses at organized events should be tested. Clubs can make testing mandatory for horses that are participating in an event

NOTE: Please see the following pages for a complete list of "other" comments

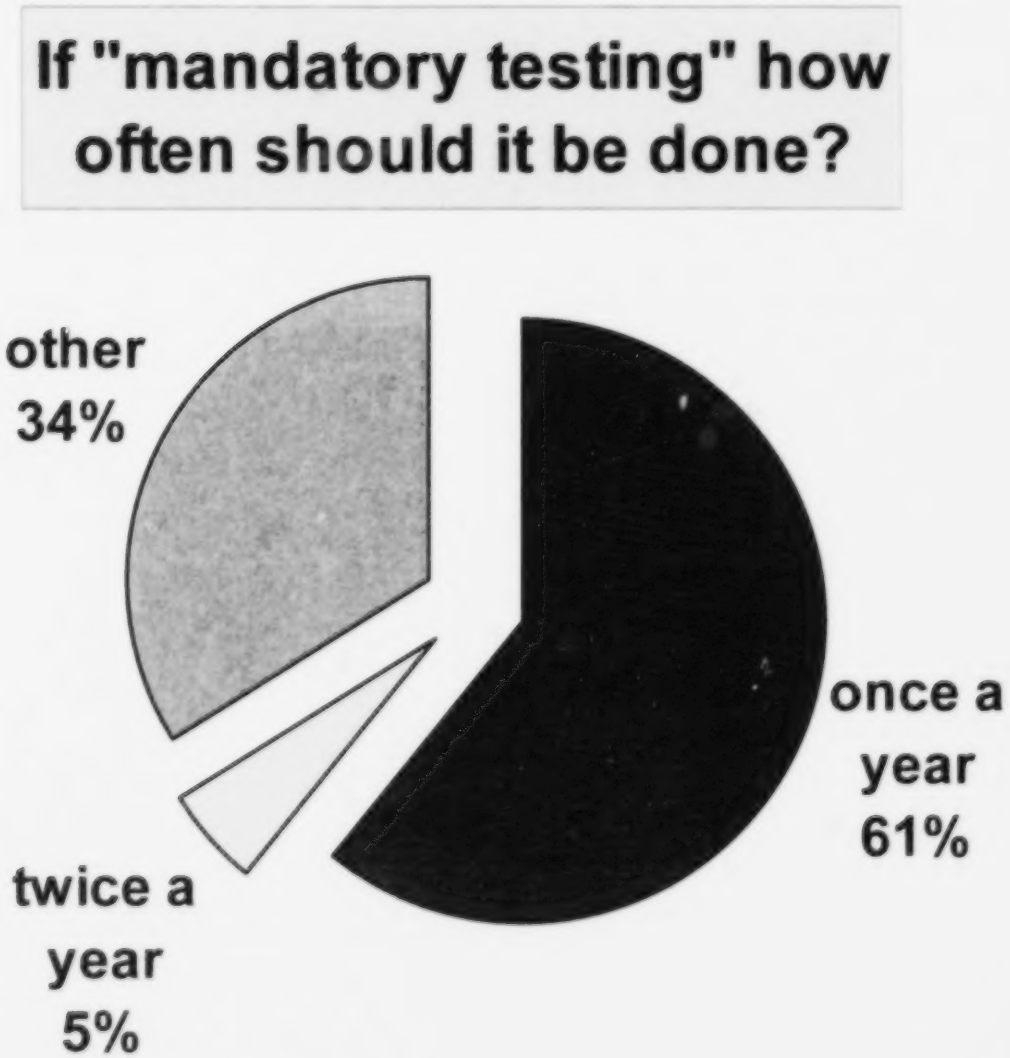
"Other comments"

- Just another way for the vets to gouge us.
- Free testing - no charge.
- Plus a very heavy fine for not testing.
- E.I.A. testing should be done on any horses being in proximity to other horses - certain groups/herds that are isolated could be exempted.
- Not well enough informed to comment.
- If you're going to test any horses at any time, you should test them all.
- Public education, voluntary testing, cheaper testing prices.
- Mandatory testing of all horses with potential to spread disease (within a few kilometers of other horses at any time).
- Subsidised testing for big breeds of horses if testing would be mandatory in the Yukon, ie. Outfitters
- Cost is a huge consideration. For people who use horses for work cost is a major factor.
- If YTG is concerned about E.I.A. then they should also subsidise or pay for Coggins testing. There are a number of horse owners in our area that do not test and I believe are high risk.
- Voluntary testing, public education, reduced test costs.
- All horses being wintered outside of the Yukon should be tested when or before their return, except outfitters.
- Optional testing: if clubs or organizations want to prohibit positive horses they can demand a negative test.
- This is a radical approach. It would work, but I am not sure it is possible.
- Any horse in organized events where other horses are around should be tested.
- Mandatory testing of all existing Yukon horses would be great, but not very likely.
- Depends on the occupation or residence of the horse.
- People who keep equines within 200 yards of a neighbour's Coggins tested equines should be required to test for the safety of all the equines involved.
- Regulation that requires equids to have a negative blood test for E.I.A. if the animals are kept within 200 yards of equids owned by another individual.
- Other: Coggins testing should be left to the owners discretion.
- Should be optional
- Mandatory testing for inter-provincial travel and public events.
- Only if breeding to sell. Testing should be done if you move to a different area that has horses.
- If you force testing it would have to be ALL the horses.
- I think testing should be an individual choice.
- I don't know what to answer. It would take a long time to think about it.
- All boarding operations should have some sort of testing criteria. Mandatory testing of all privately owned horses may be more difficult and costly than it's worth.
- We have the best opportunity to clean up. We have few horses and one highway here.
- The Yukon has to be clean of E.I.A. before mandatory testing is in place and effective.
- I do not believe the E.I.A. can be completely eliminated or that the tests are 100% accurate. [See question 20]
- Compensation period for horses lost to E.I.A. Perhaps price ceilings for testing.
- Horses that are kept within a certain distance of neighbouring horses should be tested (mandatory).
- Other: Don't know
- It depends on the rate of infection in the Yukon.
- Testing for horses who winter "outside".

- Mandatory testing of all horses leaving the territory.
- All horses at events should be tested.
- More research needs to be done before you decide what to do with the E.I.A. results.
- All owners should be encouraged to test! In remote herds it would be difficult and probably not necessary unless these animals were frequently transported. In breeding operations, testing should be by private treaty between stallion and mare owners.
- If a horse is in contact with other horses, they should be tested. If the horse is isolated, it should be up to the individual owner.
- What happens when you find a positive? Testing rules are not consistant.
- All horses coming into the Yukon should be inoculated 5 - 6 months before they enter and have current papers to prove it.
- Mandatory testing of all breeding stallions.
- Mandatory testing of all horses participating in a riding camp.
- I feel testing would be a waste of time.
- If you tested and destroyed all positive horses, you would get rid of six out of ten Yukon horses.
- I don't think there are enough horses in the Yukon to be concerned about E.I.A.
- None of this will do any good unless we deal with existing positive horses.Mandatory testing of all new horses coming to the Yukon, including transit through.
- 1.) Horses leaving the country. 2.) Perhaps random testing of existing Yukon horses.
- I don't know.
- Testing should be federally funded - or partly assisted. Annual testing is expensive.
- Mandatory testing of horses participating in group activities - high risk, trail rides and other events.
- My situation is different than most. I am an outfitter, and my horses only come into contact with my herd.
- Only those horses attending special events requiring Coggins Testing should be tested. Strongly disagree with mandatory testing of all horses.
- We are already regulated to death, so there should be no regulations about this.
- For my horses situated on settlement land to use for my personal use, also the horse is tied to my cultural/traditional pursuit. The horses are isolated from other horses around Yukon.
- Rough stock and rodeo might be hard to monitor. If we have mandatory testing, I am not sure what it would do for the rodeo.
- Horse owners should be able to decide if they want their horses tested or not. People should not be forced to test their horses.
- All horses everywhere should be tested.
- Depends on cost whether it should be mandatory for all existing Yukon horses.
- While I agree with these, I don't think it's enforceable.
- I believe all horses should be tested. I'm not sure I'm ready to say the government should mandate this. It is a responsible horse owners action.
- It should be up to the individual owner.

12.1

If "mandatory testing" how often should testing be done?		
Response	Number	%
once a year	95	61%
twice a year	8	5%
other	53	34%



53 comments were recorded under the "other" category for question 12.1. The following are representative of these comments.

- Testing should be done when entering the Yukon. Horses should be re-tested yearly if in contact with other horses. Horses should be tested more often if exposed to untested horses. Test before a horse is sold or shipped outside the Yukon. If a horse comes into contact with a positive horse then it should be tested twice a year or more.

- Testing should be done in the spring, prior to mosquito season. Test in September, if the horse is negative then it will be negative in the spring. Test based on what medical trials show so far as to whether E.I.A. is transmitted seasonally or by bites.

- Once there is a negative test, test only if there is contact with other horses. Horses that participate in public events should be tested more frequently than those that do not.

- If government could help reduce testing costs tests should be conducted once or twice a year.

- Several other responses included testing every 5 years, every 2 years, once a year mandatory and once a year voluntary, every month, only as necessary and depends on the circumstances.

- 9 responses indicated that the individual was unsure or did not know how often testing should be done.

NOTE: Please see the following pages for a complest list of "other" comments.

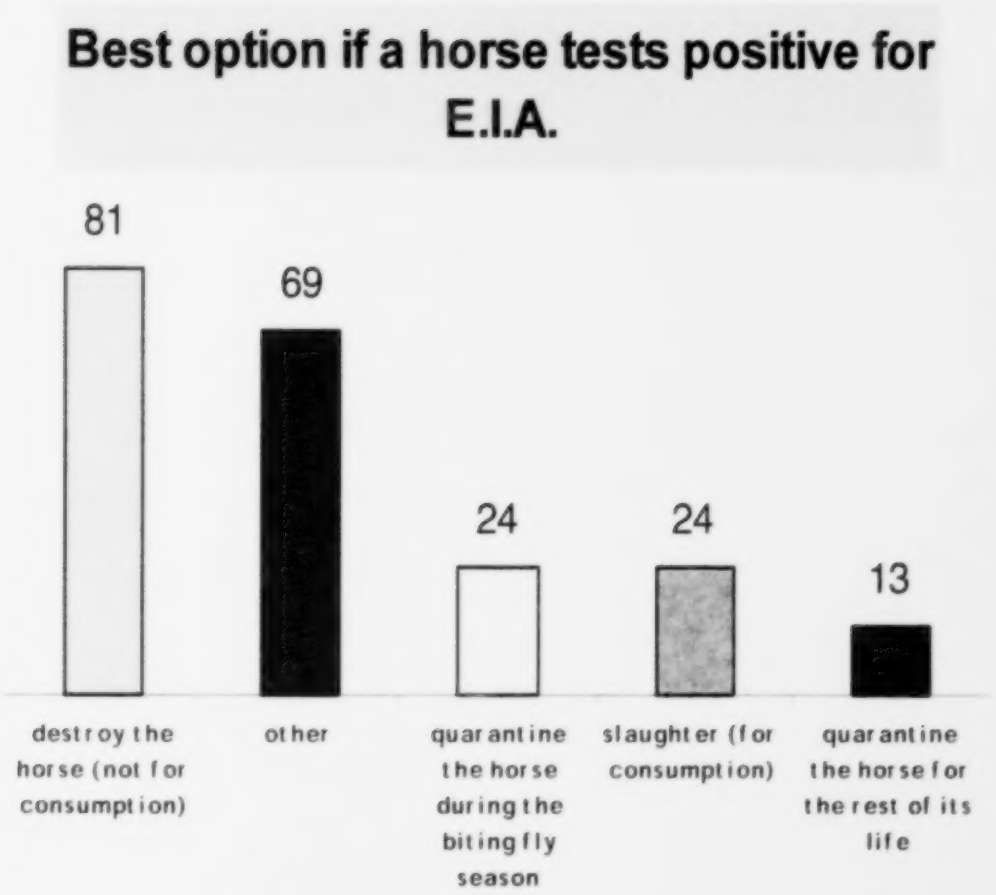
"Other" comments

- If mandatory testing came into affect, horses would have to be tested at least monthly in order for it at all to be effective.
- Depends on location or use.
- Only as necessary
- Depends on the circumstances.
- Once every few years.
- Once a year with appropriate remediation measures for any positive results.
- Once per year mandatory and once per year voluntary.
- Once every 2 years, once they are cleared.
- Every 2 years.
- If all horses are tested and negative horses put down, why test more?
- If all of the Yukon is done only then if E.I.A. is outside, it will come back.
- Whatever recommended frequency to prevent spreading.
- Once every 5 years.
- Don't know.
- unsure
- Don't know.
- Don't know.
- Don't know.
- Don't know
- Not sure
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Testing should only be done when entering the territory.
- Just when they come into Yukon.
- Tested only upon entry to Yukon.
- Horse should be tested only upon entry to the Yukon.
- Tested upon entry to the Yukon then re-tested yearly when coming in contact with other horses.
- If new to territory then test the horse. If not around other horses, then don't test.
- Test once then test only new incoming or outgoing horses.
- Animals that are not being transported should not need re-testing unless other factors apply. As applicable, when sold, bred or transported in or out of the territory. We should not put other jurisdictions at risk either.
- Other: More often if exposed to untested horses. (i.e., if leaving then returning to the Yukon.)
- Other: Twice a year if leaving and returning to the Yukon.
- And before a horse is sold or shipped outside.
- Or as sold.
- Other: During the winter, E.I.A. is not considered a problem.
- Unless, for example, a horse tested negative in the spring and then is moved or boarded elsewhere in the fall. This ensures all horses at the boarding facility or new location are clear.
- Whatever medical trials show so far. If E.I.A. is transmitted seasonally or by bites.
- Prior to mosquito season
- Test in September of each year. If negative, the horse will not be positive in the spring!

- Once a year in spring
- It depends on if they have been in contact with other horses.
- It depends on their exposure.
- Once a year or if they have been in contact with untested horses.
- On exposure to breeding animals.
- As necessary to insure clean breed stock and new purchases.
- Once tested negative, test only if come into contact with other horses. All Yukon horses must be tested.
- People who participate in public events should be tested more often than those "farm bound".
- Once a year is sufficient, unless the horses in question have come in contact with a horse which tested positive, then it should be done twice a year or more.
- Costs too much and it's hard to keep Coggins under 100% control.
- More if government could help reduce the cost of testing.
- Once or twice a year depending on who has to pay and how much.

12.2

If a horse tests positively for E.I.A. which of the following options would be the best choice?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
destroy the horse (not for consumption)	**81**	**38%**
other	**69**	**33%**
quarantine the horse during the biting fly season	**24**	**11%**
slaughter (for consumption)	**24**	**11%**
quarantine the horse for the rest of its life	**13**	**6%**



69 comments were recorded under the "other" category for question 12.2. The following are representative of these comments

- Many responses indicated that the horse should be quarantined but with no set time limits specified. Others thought the horse should be quarantined for the rest of its life.

- A common response was "it should be left up to the horse owners discretion".

- 10 comments suggested the horse should be slaughtered. 8 of these comments specified slaughtered for dog food.

- Others felt that they needed more information to comment, they would need to consult a vet, there needed to be more research on the disease, there needs to be a more reliable test for the disease and that horses with E.I.A. need to be studied.

- 9 people said that they don't know.

- 6 comments suggested do nothing, let nature take its course.

- 5 said it depends on the proximity to other horses.

- 5 said destroy the horse if there is compensation.

NOTE: Please see the following pages for a complete list of "other" comments.

"Other" comments.

- Quarantine the horse for the rest of its life
- Don't know
- If it was, to destroy positive animals, either going or coming into Yukon or here in Yukon, somebody's going to have to compensate the asset, also horse itself.
- This is up to the person that it applies to. The regulations that are in right now are fine
- Provided confirmation of at least 3 tests
- Quarantine the horse for the rest of its life.Discretionary for owner between two options.
- Continue to work the horse unless he was showing clinical signs and symptoms. A horse can test positive depending on the extenuating factors - and will not necessarily pass on the disease.
- other: buried or cremated
- Slaughter - dog food only?The Federal Regulations regulate disposal of horse. Depending on disease spread, may possibly be useful for dog feed?
- Quarantine the horse for the rest of its life; other: owner option
- Don't know.
- I cannot imagine putting my horse down so it's extremely hard to say "slaughter" but I don't think it's fair or right to quarantine and still run the risk of infecting other horses accidentally. And I believe another E.I.A. issue is how safe the horse is
- Don't know.
- It should be up to each owner what happens to the horse.
- Other: owner discretion
- It depends on location. If you are not near anyone. Just quarantine.
- The respondent has no answer. Respondent wants more information on the disease.
- By "for consumption", I presume you mean as dog food, right?!?
- Do nothing.
- It depends upon the owner, their location and whether the horse is sick or not.
- Quarantine horse for the rest of its life.
- The control should be tied to the usage. And up to owner - with a liability associated to any contravention.
- Slaughter if the meat can go to a dog musher, etc., that's better than nothing.
- Slaughter (for consumption)
- Leave it alone. Things haven't changed over 200 years. Why bother now?
- Quarantine will work only under certain circumstances.A horse or group which are positive, though are in a remote area, likely pose no threat to negative horses. I've seen old horses with no symptoms, though tested positive.
- Ask the veterinarian.
- If the horse is sick with the disease at the time, quarantine him until symptoms pass or he dies. If the animal is healthy, treat him as such.
- Undecided.
- That depends on location, situation and proposed use of horse.
- Best use possible.
- Should be up to the owner.
- Destroy animal if feasible, slaughter not for consumption but for dog food.
- Not well enough informed to comment.
- To consult with the veterinarian.
- Don't know enough about the disease to answer this question.
- This would have to be determined by authorities who know: i.e., veterinarians, ag. Branch officers, etc.
- If quarantined - by how much space and who will monitor?
- Infected horses should be destroyed and compensation paid to owner.

- Infected horses should be destroyed and compensation paid to owner.
- Unless it's your special dearly beloved horse companion, try to quarantine at a remote place.Dog meat.
- Quarantine or destroy the horse at owner's discretion. Note: All destroyed horses must still be paid for by the Federal Government or no own will test.
- A permanent identifier that is visible could be used and remote quarantine sites might be an option. Positive testers have no future for breeding, sale or showing and will be shunned in most horse community venues.
- Owner should decide the fate of the horse - it should not be legislated.
- Study these horses to find out more about the disease. Perhaps positive horses are either resistant or immune in which case they are a valuable resource.
- It would depend on the location of the horse.
- Quarantine horse during the biting fly season-slaughter (for consumption)
- Slaughter (for consumption)
- Don't know.
- All of the above are good options depending on individual circumstances.
- Until further research is done, the test is not valid.
- It's up to the owner, but I think it should be quarantined.
- It's up to the horse owner. What he does with his own animals.
- How do we know it isn't something like Mad Cow disease and will show up later in another species?
- Quarentine the horse for the rest of its life
- Quarantine the horse for the rest of its life.
- Would depend on owner's wishes
- Slaughter for consumption by dog teams or wildlife farms.
- The horses tested positive for the antibodies, not the disease. A test needs to be developed for the disease.
- The horse tested positive for the antibodies not the disease. A test needs to be developed for the disease.
- Depending on the horse's condition it should be separated from the other horses.
- I have been around horses all my life and have never seen the effects of E.I.A.
- Don't know.
- In my case, our horses only come into contact with our horses. Leave alone.
- It's up to the owner.
- Slaughter for animal consumption only, if proven safe for them and not being transferred to other species.
- Don't do anything.
- Quarantine and then re-test.
- Do nothing.

This page intentionally left blank.

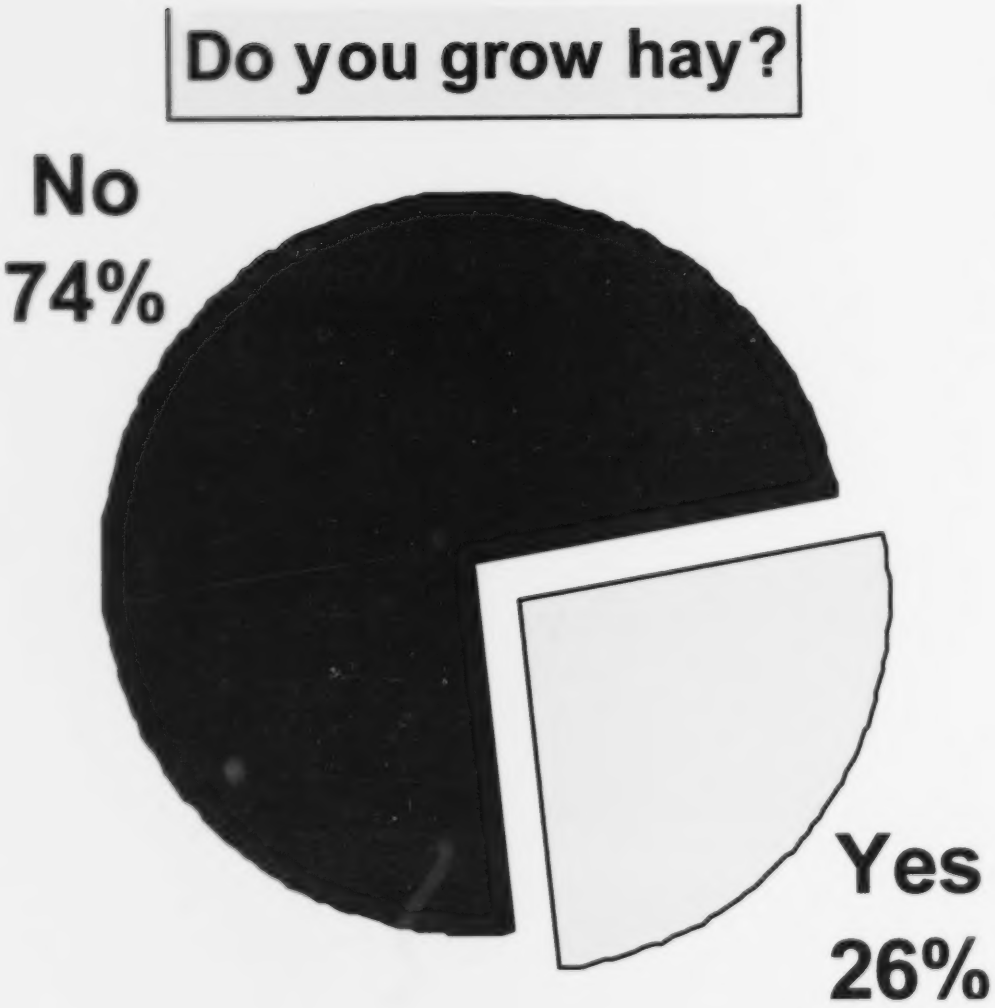
This page intentionally left blank.

Hay

This page intentionally left blank.

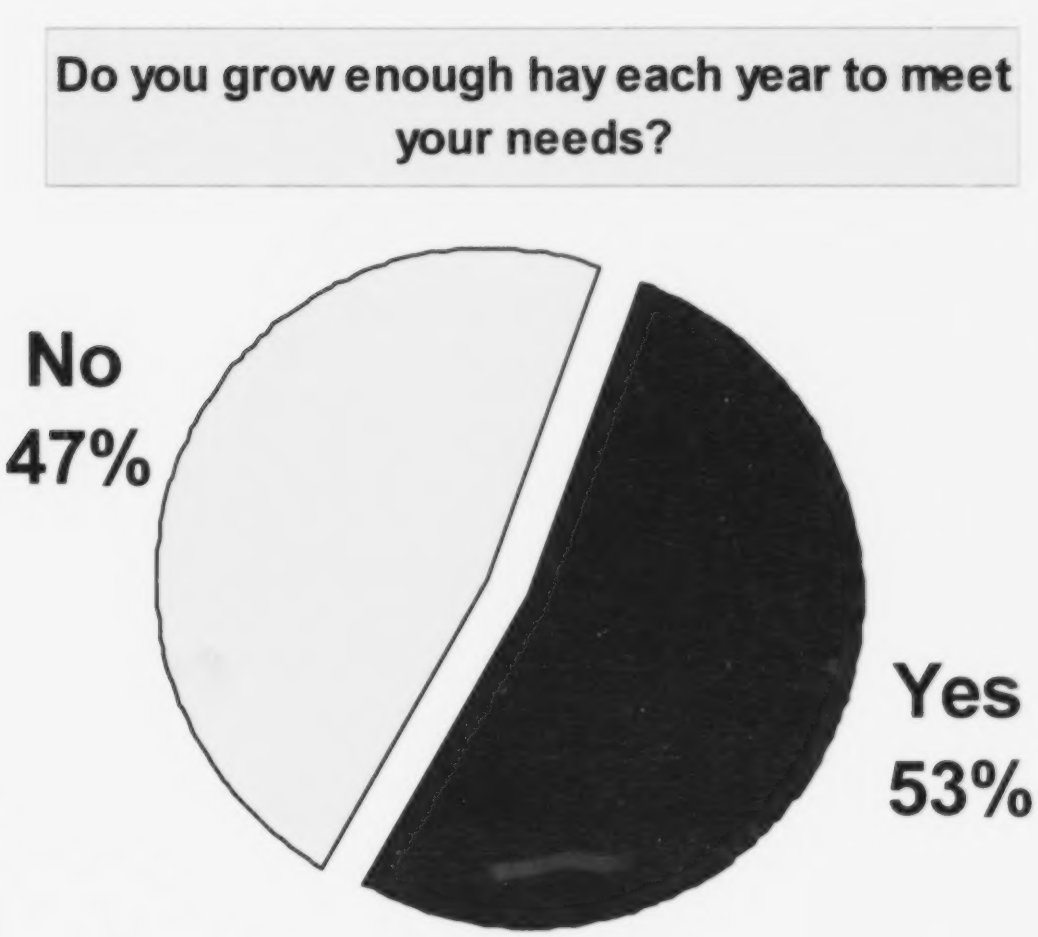
13

Do you grow hay?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
Yes	55	26%
No	155	74%



13.1

Do you grow enough hay each year to meet your needs?		
Response	Number	%
Yes	29	53%
No	26	47%



14

Do you buy hay?		
Response	Number	%
Yes	158	75%
No	52	25%

If "yes", how much per year in tons?

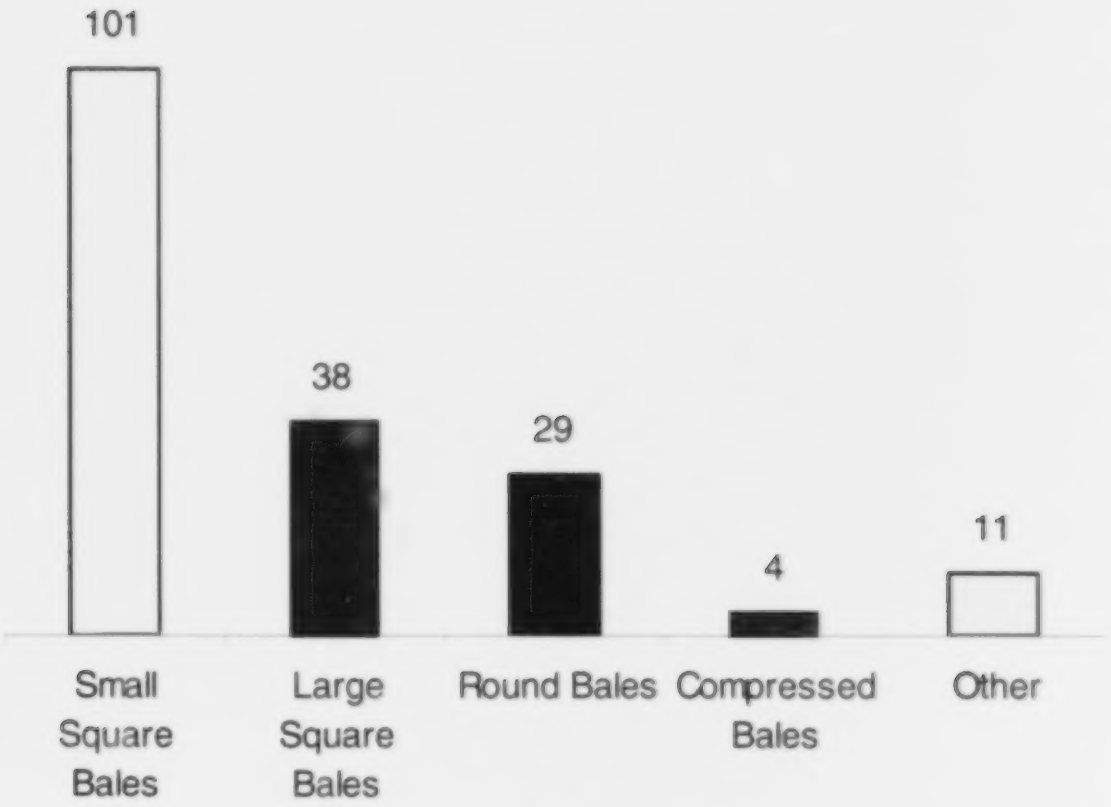
83 respondents	820 tons of hay/year

14.1

How do you prefer to buy hay?	
Response	**Number**
Small Square Bales	101
Large Square Bales	38
Round Bales	29
Compressed Bales	4
Other	11

Note: some respondents selected more than one preference.

Preference for buying Hay



"Other" hay buying preferences:

- No preference in bale type.
- Use summer hay as round bales are not convenient for my barn.
- Alfalfa cubes by tote.
- Alfalfa cubes.
- Prefer green feed but buy 20-30 large round bales for winter only. Tons not known.
- 500 lb bale.
- All different ways.
- Doesn't matter.
- Mix with supplements - oat bundles and complete feed.
- Whichever looks the best, size doesn't matter.
- Don't know.

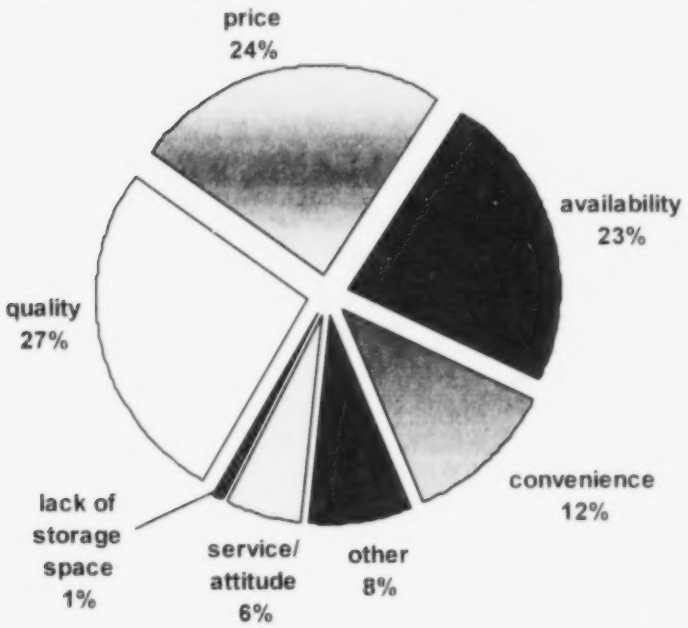
15

Where do you usually buy hay?
115 or 52% bought 77% of their hay from a local farmer
21or 9% bought 50% of their hay from a local feed store
70 or 32% bought 67% of their hay from outside the Yukon
9 or 4% bought 76% of their hay through a buying group importing hay
7 or 3% bought 79% of their hay through an other source

15.1

Why did you purchase hay outside the Yukon?		
Response	**Number**	**%**
quality	65	27%
price	59	24%
availability	56	23%
convenience	29	12%
other	19	8%
service/attitude	14	6%
lack of storage space	2	1%

Why hay was purchased outside theYukon.



Of the 19 "other" responses collected there were 2 main themes. 8 of the comments revolved around a guaranteed, dependable and consistent source. 6 comments talked of better hay with regards to quality, testing and content. There were 5 miscellaneous comments.

16

When purchasing hay what are you looking for? (note: respondents were asked to rate in order of importance according to 11 set criteria and, if desired, 2 other criteria of their choice)

The order of importance of the 11 set criteria were:

Most important	1.	Mould Free
	2.	Dust Free
	3.	Protein
	4.	Price
	5.	Moisture Content
	6.	Color
	7.	Weed Free
	8.	Size of Bale
	9.	Legume Content
	10.	Smell
Least Important	11.	Texture

The following list represents choices made under the 2 "other" possible criteria. Preceding the response is the number where the individual ranked their choice(s) among the 11 set criteria. (note: some respondents chose criteria but did not rank them)

16 Other

1: #1 feed
1: A combination of colour, dust free, mold free, price, protein, smell, texture, weed free.
1: All are very important. I don't think I can rate them.
1: Brome, clover
1: Buy locally from whoever has good hay.
1: Fresh
1: Good clean weed free (oat hay).
1: Horse is boarded with others who choose hay.
1: I choose hay on an overall view.
1: Large quantity
1: Large quantity
1: Mixture of hay
1: Quality
1: Second cut alfalfa
1: Some alfalfa mix
1: Total digestible nutrients.
1: Timothy
1: Proper alfalfa content
2: Clean hay
2: Protein and legumes fit together.
3: Mix of feed
3: Weight of bale
4: Get the same hay as the other horse owner in town.
4: Overall quality
4: Proximity to my place
5: Baled without rain
5: Price, legume, protein are all considered at the same time.
5: Trust my supplier
5: Weight per bale
6: No excessive nitrogen due to overuse of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, especially a problem on arid soils.
6: Baled with hempstring.

7: Knowing who I'm buying from.
8: Supporting local farmer.
9: Some of these are related - mold/smell/moisture content/colour/price/size/protein/legume
10: Distance to supplier
11: Palatability to my horses
12: Quality hay, best price per lb of feed.
12: Convenience
12: Forage species
12: Good quality overall
12: Location - ease of delivery and/or pick-up
12: What kind of grasses
13: Distance to transport
13: Who's the farmer

Delivery.

Foxtail is the worst weed.

I'm not really sure on these. The main thing I look for is I ask the seller if the hay was tested for nutritional value and what it was. I make sure that the hay smells and looks good and is not moldy. I also will only buy small bales as I can't handle the large round bales.

No foxtails! Rose bushes and fireweed are not good. No fre fire wood, please!

The rest don't matter much.

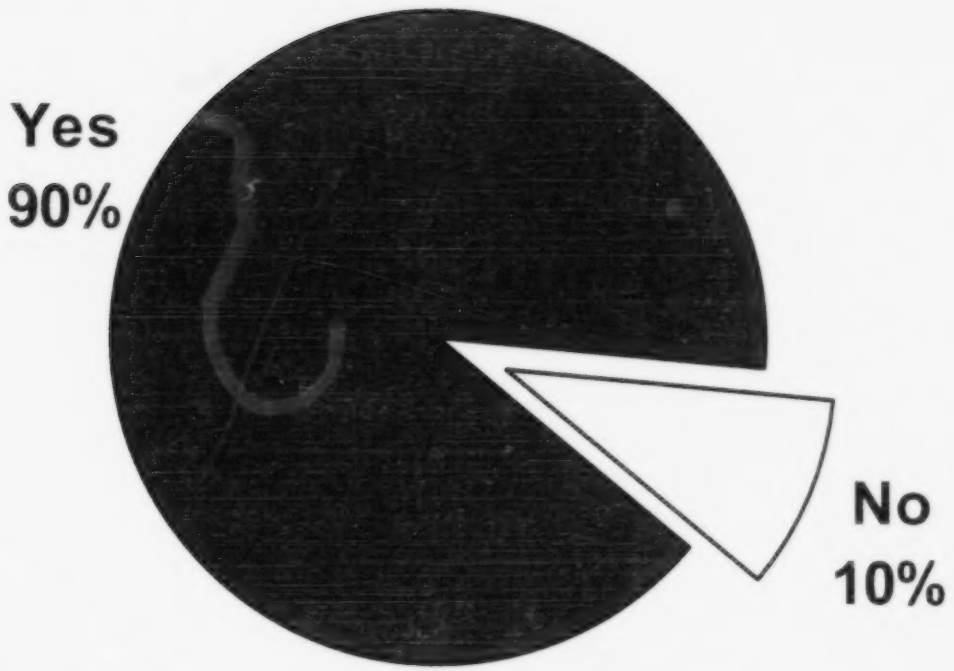
Type of hay.

I would prefer to buy hay by weight (price/lb) with a guaranteed level of moisture (to avoid risk of mould).

17

Do you use any other feed?		
Response	Number	%
Yes	190	90%
No	20	10%

Do you use any other feed?



17.1

What type of other feed do you use? (note: more than one response could have been selected)

Type of other feed	
Response	**Number**
Green Feed (forage oats)	48
Oats or other grain	116
Supplements	159
Other	38

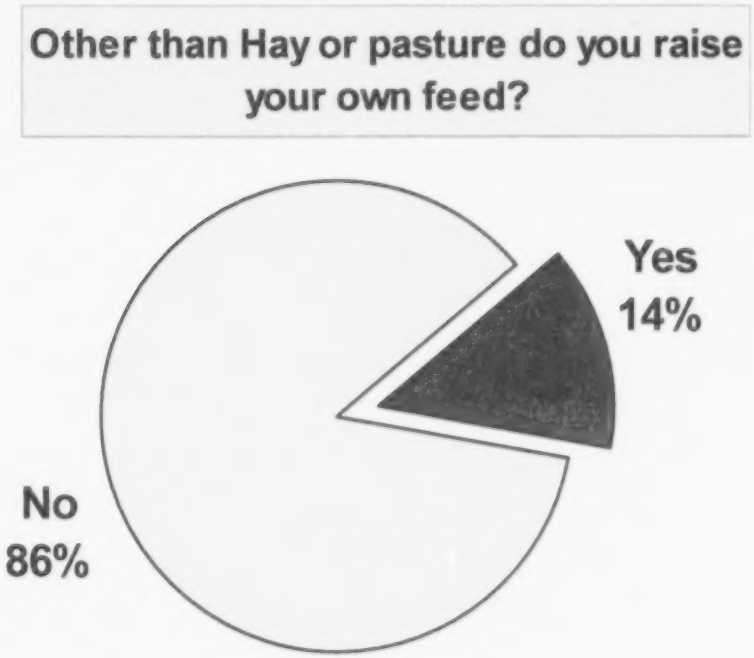
Type of Supplement	
Response	**Number**
Complete feed Pellets/Cubes	122
Mineral or Vitamin Blocks	133

Of the 48 that selected "green feed (forage oats)", 40 responded this made up 36% of all other feed. Of the 116 that selected "oats or other grain" 106 responded this made up 27% of all other feed.

Of the 38 that chose "other" the most common choices in descending order were beet pulp (8), sweet feed (6), fruit/vegetables (5), alfalfa pellets, salt, straw and other with 3.

18

Other than hay or pasture do you raise your own feed?		
Response	Number	%
Yes	29	14%
No	181	86%



18.1

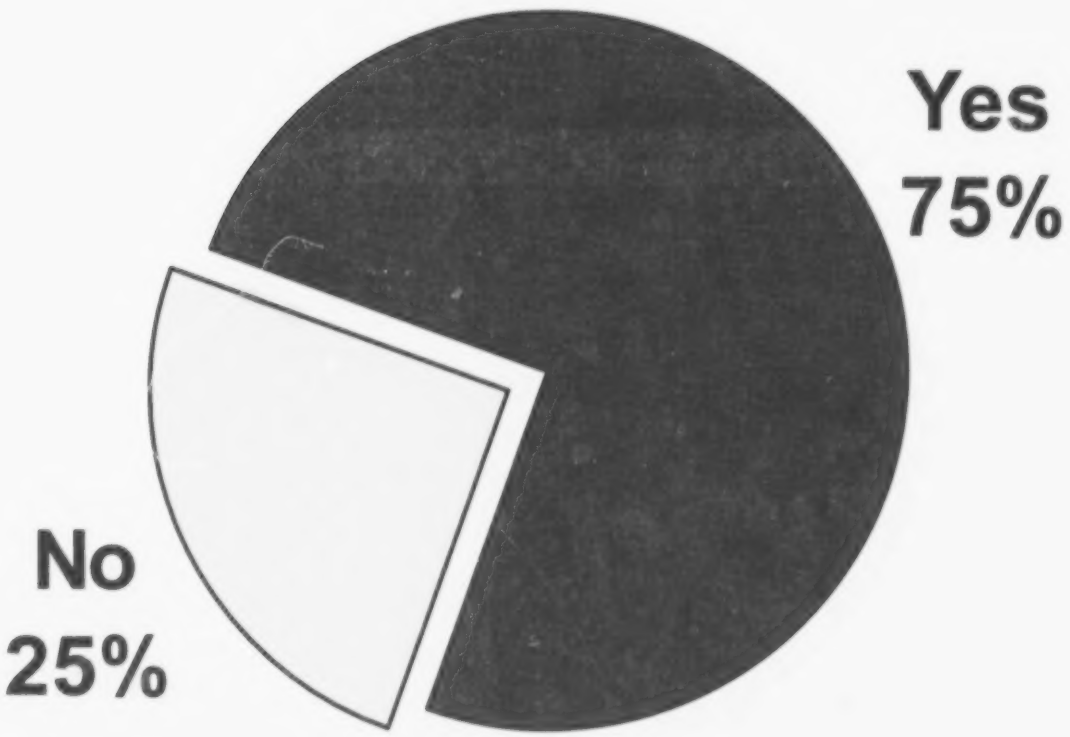
How much per year?

Those responding "yes" to question 18 were asked "how much per year" (in tons) of feed did they raise. 17 respondents answered and together they raised a total of 1,222 tons of feed.

19

Do You Graze Your Horse(s)?		
Response	Number	%
Yes	157	75%
No	53	25%

Do You Graze Your Horse(s)?



19.1

Where do you graze your horse(s)?	
Response	**Number**
own pasture	100
board with others	26
grazing lease	27
other	33

"Other" Grazing

Responses included friends and neighbors yards/fields(6), settlement/band land (5), lawn (4), outfitting concession (3), highways/ditches (3) and various miscellaneous responses.

20. If you have any, please provide any additional comments about your horse(s), E.I.A., or hay/feed?

104 people chose to provide additional comments. Comments were categorized under headings and the following are the results:

Brands:

- Would like to see active enforcement of the stallion at large section and mandatory branding of adult stallion section of the Yukon Brands Act.2.) Would like to see mandatory branding of all horses over 1 year old, which are in transport on public roads, or which run at large on crown land (including grazing leases).3.) There is too much (unreported) theft of Yukon horses - some transported out of Yukon - some ending up in outfitters' herds.4.) If branding were mandatory, I would suggest that the pound-keepers also act as brand inspectors.

Discretionary Testing:

- It is unfortunate that anyone bothers to fight E.I.A. I believe we should let nature take its course in this situation. Horses are bred with the disease for a long time and less horses die from the disease than are killed because they have it.
- Don't want my horses to be tested. Look after my horses really good.

Equine Infectious Anemia:

- I find I need more information on E.I.A.
- Horses can contact E.I.A. after the test and before the event. Mail test is not valid.
- Coggins Test is very expensive, unreliable and inconclusive!!
- I agree with a current negative test for horse shows but rodeo is a different story. Too difficult to monitor rough stock. Handlers and owners would never test. Rodeo horse should stay at rodeo grounds and if you take your show horse, you are taking your chances maybe!! All horses have to be tested before they cross the border to Alaska. Why not here?
- Feel if Yukon is going to do this it should be Yukon-wide. Also, if they do this it should work like the Federal program where veterinarian and testing is done for free and you will be compensated if any of your horses need to be put down.
- Get the E.I.A. under control up here!
- Testing more than once a year is a pension for veterinarian.
- It's impossible to cover all the horses.
- The time is right to clean up this disease. Now it is not fair to test when your neighbour doesn't. I think all horses should be checked. All horses even those passing through should be checked.
- I think it is very difficult to make iron clad rules and that each case should be dealt with individually. As long as a horse does not put others at risk there should be a variety of options open to the horse owner if the horse tests positive.
- Some very respected equine vets in the south have told me that the swamp fever issue must be re-looked at. There are by far more good horses being put down than that are dying from swamp fever. I don't feel that the Yukon can ever test every horse in the territory. There are many horses that live in the wild and could have swamp fever.

- I think this Coggin's disease is just a bleeding heart vet thing. The rest of my comments you don't want to hear.
- Vets should charge an affordable rate for Coggin's testing regardless of the horse owner being a member of horsemen's association or not. Many people do not test because it is too expensive, especially if you have more than one horse!!
- Because I take the precaution and where I board my horse takes the precaution of testing for E.I.A., I would appreciate the fact that other people's disrespect for Coggins testing does not put my horse at risk.
- I hope my horses don't get E.I.A. We already had to deal with that once before.
- The Coggins Test only tests for the presence of E.I.A. antibodies. The antibodies do not necessarily mean the horse has E.I.A. only that at one time it was exposed to the disease. This is much the same as a TB test for humans. There should be more information about E.I.A. on the survey.
- I read different articles about E.I.A. and could not build an opinion so far if horses should get tested regularly by law or not. Different articles and comments show different "facts". I would like to know how many horses actually died of E.I.A. in the recent years in the Yukon. As far as I know, horses up here get tested regularly. Some positive results showed up, what "damage" did they do? If a horse is a courier it can still have a useful, meaningful life and be otherwise healthy.
- I would like to attend another seminar on E.I.A - the last one was several years ago. (many new horse owners since.) Legislation would be required in order to make testing E.I.A. mandatory. The cost of mandatory testing without being told the possible ramifications, re: legislation, government cost, etc. I notice there was no question about the cost of the Coggins test and whether that is a factor in horse owners testing their animals. For many people, I think cost is the biggest factor. For a vet to come to my farm and test two horses could cost $130.00 plus.
- Unless all of North America can control E.I.A. there is not much sense in testing.
- On the Coggins questions: If you are going to deal with it, deal with it. How do you put a price on your sick "kid". You are the professionals. If you deal with it make sure you deal with all the horses so that in 5 or 10 years it doesn't all come back again.
- I do not believe that E.I.A. can be completely eliminated or that every test is 100% accurate. Enforcing compliance will be extremely difficult. Not only are there wild horses in the Yukon that will never be tested, but many First Nations and non-First Nations owners have horses in the bush that can not be caught on a regular basis. Nor can anyone ensure that each horse was tested. Additionally, a negative test does not mean that a horse does not have E.I.A. It only means that horses that tested negative "probably" did not have it at the time of the test. It does not mean that they do not have it and it does not mean that they could not have contracted it after the test was complete. If a "Yukon" horse tested positive how would it be shipped out for slaughter? If an "outside" horse tested negative it does not mean that the horse does not have E.I.A. It only means that it probably did not have it at the time it was tested and it may have contracted it between the test and the time it arrived in the Yukon.
- Details should be given on E.I.A. and the Coggins Test. Such as - the facts or opinions. How is the test done? What does it show? How accurate is it? How does the disease transfer? Is the disease fatal? Are the presence of antibodies fatal to that horse? Research should be done to prove answers.
- I think in order to make sound decisions on E.I.A. we need to learn more about it. I would very much like to attend a workshop, a small one, which would include a veterinarian, some slides to show us symptoms and question and answer session.
- I am not convinced that quarantining a horse which tests positive for E.I.A. is a good solution. Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee that the quarantined animal will not infect other horses, even accidentally. As much as I would hate to put my own horse down, I would do it if she tested positive for E.I.A. just to prevent it from spreading via her.
- The maintenance and growth of our equine breeding, boarding and training business depends upon an E.I.A. negative environment. We have been obligated to destroy valuable brood mares and have felt

- the negative effects to our business of the quarantine placed on our farm. This cannot happen again. We must maintain zero-tolerance for E.I.A. in order for our business to survive. Zero contact with untested horses can be our only policy. *N.B. Equine includes mules, donkeys, and miniature donkeys as well as our horses and ponies.
- An E.I.A. negative environment is required to operate our business. We can allow no contact with untested equines. Our breeding, boarding and training business depends on E.I.A. testing and zero tolerance to untested equines. This includes mules and donkeys as well as horses. Horses are our livelihood.
- I would like to know more about the government program of compensation to owners who put down E.I.A. positive horses. I don't think it's known widely enough to encourage more people to test. I think testing should be free and mandatory so we can eradicate E.I.A. from Canada.
- Because of legislation your options are limited. I would like more information on E.I.A. Is there really a need to get all panicky about this? Has E.I.A. always been around and we are just now worrying about it? What are the statistics from other countries?
- Our neighbour has horses. They do not test and we are aware they do not have to. We find it would be great if people live so close together that they could supply each other with a negative Coggins test.
- There needs to be more research done on E.I.A. before constructive decisions can be made. The current tests are not foolproof. Also, it needs to be a Canada-wide decision. Horses bought locally had E.I.A. Either test them all or don't test any.
- Some questions, Re: E.I.A.: 1.) How many horses die per year of E.I.A.? 2.) How many die from a positive Coggins test? 3.) Why is E.I.A. called the "the AIDS of the horse world" when the only similarity is that it is a retrovirus? 4.) Who decided that horses testing positive must be destroyed? 5.) Is it possible to eradicate a retrovirus in this manner? 6.) Why not try to wipe out horseflies? 7.) Is it desirable to eradicate it? 8.) Why do we cling to a 30 year old program that doesn't work and is based on a titer test which shows exposure, not the virus itself? 9.) Why are all these Coggins positive horses living long, healthy, vigorous, useful lives until they are tested? 10.) Why doesn't any agency review the policy of test and destroy? 11.) Why isn't all the money spent on testing used in research to find a vaccine?
- Without a "very strict" policing system at every port of entry into and out of the Yukon, to check every horse is impossible. Horse owners are becoming aware of Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.) but not informed, thus the purpose of my letter. I have quoted directly from a publication by Lynn Kittleson, D.V.M. It was printed some twenty years ago, but the information and statistics are still as relevant today, as they are startling. I would like horse owners to be fully aware of the drastic ramifications of a Coggins test and how ridiculous the idea is, that we would possibly conceive to become an E.I.A. free country. Because E.I.A. is a government reportable disease, once done, all horses and horse owners in a given area are directly affected by a positive outcome. "The Coggins test shows the presence of antibody against the virus of equine infectious anemia. It does not differentiate between the forms of the disease nor show that a horse has the virus at transmissible levels in the blood stream. As a confirmatory diagnostic tool, the test is invaluable, but for use as a "test and slaughter" regulatory screening test, it has apparent shortcomings: 1. The test does not discriminate between the forms of disease and thereby indicate the potential transmissibility of disease of an individual. Therefore harmless non-transmitters are being condemned.2. Because the test requires a high level of antibody in the blood sample to be detectable (a well known characteristic of the immunodiffusion laboratory technique) and show a line of antibody virus junction on the plate, many animals carrying low levels are escaping our detection and control. Our equine population may, in reality, have 12 percent or even higher infection rate.3. During the incubation period, usually around three weeks, there is not adequate detectable antibody production. Therefore, the test would read negative even though the horse is developing the disease. This particular animal would probably not be tested again for six months to one year at which time it may show positive and come under control. Misinformed emotional horsemen catalyzed by the state and federal regulatory philosophy of test and slaughter as the best method of controlling the disease, have caused the death of, or rendered valueless, more horses than the disease would have in the next 52 years. This has happened while testing less than 4 percent of our equine population. If we were to test our entire equine population in one day, we would render valueless more horses than the disease would in the next thousand years. It has been suggested that

animals previously exposed to the virus have an immunity which aids in protection against the virus. A very high percentage of E.I.A. positive reactors are in the chronic carrier non-transmissible form of the disease. The Coggins test is adequate and valuable to confirm a diagnosis of E.I.A. but for use indiscriminately as a screening test on apparently healthy animals, as is now occurring, it is many times more deadly than E.I.A., killing or rendering valueless three out of every hundred subject to it. Whereas the disease itself would have affected one out of every 20,000. Research has not yet produced enough answers concerning the disease to rationally embark upon any drastic measures of control. There is no scientific proof that apparently healthy positive reactor can transmit the disease or become a transmitter of the disease to other horses. I hope I have been successful in shedding some light on the negatives of E.I.A. testing and that "test and slaughter" is not the answer.

- We need more information. The stats on E.I.A. should be published so we could have more information to give more informed answers.
- I would be interested to see statistically what the rate and area of E.I.A. infection is.
- E.I.A. concerns: 1) Coggins test only shows that an animal has antibodies against E.I.A. but tells little or nothing about whether he will ever qualify as a carrier. 2) We do not know nearly enough about this disease to be arbitrarily killing otherwise healthy horses.3) Because of the nature of the disease and the dynamics of the Yukon horse population, it is virtually impossible to make the territory E.I.A-free. 4) Even if the Yukon decides to "clean up" the territory and close the borders - who is going to pay for it all? The feds are already getting weak knees on funding in other jurisdictions. I am certainly not interested in participating in a program that could easily end in me having to kill some of my horses only to have the whole program scrapped a couple of years later.
- I require current negative Coggins result to enter my property and test all horses on the property annually. I support Coggins Testing in a positive, non-fanatical way.
- E.I.A. testing should not affect any horses that are transported through the Yukon without pausing in the Yukon. The testing should only be relevant to those staying in the Yukon not merely passing through. It's not like we are dealing with international borders. Test breeding stock, sure. But just passing through, there shouldn't be any testing.

Feed:

- There needs to be some testing, which is readily available to ascertain the quality of locally grown hay.
- As for all livestock owners and considering the long haul on feed, there should be a subsidy set up to help us over the long cold winter as farmers get in the south. Are we less? Especially those used in outfitting and rentals to make our living. Maybe not so much for pets.
- Feed is getting expensive.
- Foxtail barley, mold and dust are health hazards and therefore unacceptable at any cost. The size of small squares is a health hazard - anything over 50 lbs. can be too heavy for most women (most horse owners are women).
- Government could consider some kind of subsidy or loan to assist in testing of horses for E.I.A. -might encourage people with a lot of horses I.e. outfitters to get all their horses tested. 2. Should be greater recognition of the horse owners/businesses contributing to the local economy. Horse owners are the major supporter of forage producers which in turn support the outfitters and the firearms industry.3. I believe the quality of the feed produced locally has improved considerably in the last few years - I no longer buy hay from outside.
- I used local hay for years before switching to an outside supplier. Of six local suppliers, I encountered the following concerns: Foxtails and horse manure in the bales; over mature hay and fireweed fluff (lots!); heavy bales which proceeded to heat; very light, loose bales with lots of willow and rose bushes; bales which yielded more firewood than feed! Variation in price quoted when delivered. Uneven bale size and tension. Very few local suppliers are set up to deliver 1,500 - 2,000 bales of hay, which is my present annual requirement.

- The quality and quantity of local hay has increased since we first got horses. We are quite happy, when necessary, to buy hay locally when we need it.
- If we do have to buy hay there should be a freight subsidy.
- I would be happy to buy local hay if the providers could maintain quality and quantity. It would be nice if local farmers had their hay tested for quality. I need 300 to 400 bales a year. My out of territory hay is a regular order for every year. It is nice to not worry about where my hay is coming from.
- There could be more locally grown hay available to us.
- When I look at the amount of land cleared for farming, compared with the availability of local hay, the agriculture program is proving to be a simple land grab. I bought local hay for five years and quit because the hay was full of weeds (foxtail from 1 supplier, fireweed from the other). Each time I had to throw away upwards of 160 lbs., and yet the suppliers expected top dollar. The climate is not suitable for quality hay production.
- Land Application Process more effective. A decision or action is needed about whether we want farming or not and make suitable land available. My biggest concern about hay is health and toxins. It can vary the feeding size for protein and heat.
- Given the choice, I prefer to purchase from local hay growers. Supply is inconsistent at times but the quality is there. Compared to imported hay, the price per pound is higher, however.
- Where hay is bought varies from year to year depending on local crop.
- I wish people up here would make their hay a better quality.
- I used to buy hay locally, but stopped for the following reasons. The hay was full of tails because of lack of fertilization or branches and fireweed. The suppliers wanted top dollar for this substandard hay. A couple of years they either didn't have enough or because of weather was poor quality. I decided to buy from outside in order to guarantee quality, supply and price and have not had a problem since. Further, YTG has been granting agricultural leases for people to grow hay. This is a joke. There's no "real" soil in the Yukon and without that to start with it would require constant yearly fertilizing, which would put the price of hay way out of sight.
- I believe the over use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer is sometimes a problem on hay crops in the Yukon, in part because of low moisture levels in the soil. I know of several instances of nitrogen toxicity in horses, and horses are less susceptible than some other livestock species. Foxtail in local hay also has often been a problem in my experience. When buying hay, "weed free" depends on the type of weed. Only worried about foxtails and toxicones.
- We bought hay from one person in Watson Lake. It was moldy. We then bought hay from a farmer in Tagish. His hay was incredible. This farmer has such a big demand for his hay that he has to turn people away. The question I want to ask is, "Are there any government grants available for these farmers to expand?" We first bought some hay locally grown but it was very weedy and had a lot of moisture, resulting in mold. Then we tried some from Tagish and have never seen anything quite like it for colour, quality, moisture free (in spite of rainy season, etc.) I know how has to turn people down because he can't keep up with the demand himself, so I'm wondering if there is any kind of Yukon/BC agriculture grants for growing hay, like to expand and have help, etc. because with drought in Alberta hay is scarce.
- The amount of additional grain and supplements we feed are dependent on the quality of hay and/or pasture we have in any given year. Last year was a bad crop so we had to purchase hay both locally and outside as well as supplement with a complete feed source (in a pellet-combo-mash form).
- I think the hay supply has got better and the quality has improved over the years.

Mandatory Testing:

- E.I.A. testing should be compulsory.
- All horses sold at auction sales or at stockyards should have mandatory testing so that you know that you are buying a clean horse.

- Unless the program can be instituted Canada-wide, it's impossible to clean up the problem. I'm not going to have some federal veterinarian come in here and test my horse and if it's positive, shoot my horse. He would have to shoot me too. If you make testing mandatory, you're going to put all the outfitters out of business. Mountain horses are special and not easily replaced. If the horse is obviously sick, you should just put them down yourself. Some horses are carriers.
- Testing for E.I.A. would be too great of a cost. The logistics of making everyone equal to the task would be impossible. How are you going to test all the wild herds? What will be done with land claims?
- We have limited veterinarian access. Mandatory testing would be problematic. Also to consider is the cost of the testing and getting a veterinarian to your farm to test. What we would need is for a neutral government agent to do the test.
- I strongly feel any horse with swamp fever should be put down in order to control the spread of it. Mandatory testing is the way to gain some kind of control. The volunteer way does not work. A horse in quarantine still has the disease - you can't quarantine the mosquitoes. The time is long past for the agriculture branch to do something positive. A person could have quality animals tested, while the neighbour a mile down the road has horses in quarantine. Stupid or what?
- E.I.A. - the initial cost of setup for mandatory testing is very significant. Could there be a subsidy or a roving vet to provide the service?
- We really need to get rid of E.I.A. in the Yukon. The Mayo area is clean, but when we come in contact with other animals it is too easy to have ours infected. There should be tests at the borders to control E.I.A.
- I had all my horses tested a few years ago and had to destroy three. My herd is now clean and kept isolated and out of contact with possible infection. So, I would not now need mandatory testing, but agree with mandatory testing when animals would be in contact with possibly infected horses.

Comments regarding Survey:

- I think it's good you are checking into this E.I.A. It is quite a worry for the industry.
- We feel that this survey is looking for a predetermined answer of leaning toward legislation for mandatory testing for E.I.A. We strongly disagree with legislation, this is not a government issue. It appears to be a push by the "hobby horse community" to impose restrictions on others. Question? How are you going to rate the responses between an individual who owns 60 horses versus one who owns 1 - 2 horses? And also those who make their living using horses and those with hobby horses?
- Appreciate your efforts to examine attitudes and beliefs about E.I.A. in Yukon more closely.
- The Agricultural Branch should mind their own business.
- Do you take into consideration that two spouses may answer this survey on separate forms and may both respond with number of horses owned etc?
- I would like the results to be posted in the agricultural newsletter "In-Farm-Ation". Also, I'd like to know where the Department of Agriculture stands on this.
- I'm glad they are doing this survey.
- If everyone used common sense there would be less of a problem. I don't like surveys because they usually end up with things being regulated to the hilt.
- If this survey brings about any negative legislation, I won't be pleased.

West Nile Virus:

- Coggins is not a big concern to me but I am concerned about the West Nile Virus.
- More information needs to be made available about the West Nile Virus.
- Now we need to concentrate on the West Nile Virus. We can inoculate for it but we have to get a veterinarian to do it and that is expensive. In Alberta they buy the serum and inject the animal

themselves. Why do we have to have a veterinarian do ours?

- West Nile Virus - would like to see an info letter sent to all horse owners, re: the need for moquito control and vaccination, etc. to protect Yukon horse herds.

Other Comments:

- Sure would love to see an indoor arena with boarding! Managed by a "paid" barn manager. More information nights given by vets.
- Should be allowed to have controlled burn on grazing lease to control willow and alder growth.
- Don't make policies too complicated on agriculture. Also, need more grants for small people like myself because I pay to consumers here in the Yukon to at least get something in return. Owned horses for the last 26 years.
- Regarding my horse, the number of veterinarians and ferriers need to be monitored.
- The process of acquiring or using land in the Yukon is extremely problematic. While not absolutely necessary, the availability of "pasture" makes the job of looking after horses in a respectful and responsible manner much easier.

This page intentionally left blank.

This page intentionally left blank.

This page intentionally left blank.